

Local ban on Mugabe party to clamp down on intimidation

Lord Soames, the Rhodesian Governor, took drastic action yesterday to prevent intimidation in the coming elections. He forbade Mr Mugabe's radical Zanu (PF) party to hold meetings in a central

agricultural area. Four Zanu (PF) officials were arrested and are expected to appear in court today. Last night a series of bomb explosions rocked Salisbury. Two people were killed.

Salisbury rocked by bombs

From Dan van der Vat
Salisbury, Feb 14

Official action against Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party escalated today as the Governor, Lord Soames, issued his second banning order and police arrested senior party officials.

Meanwhile white Rhodesians voted today in the first stage of the parliamentary elections. Lord Soames signed an order under his recently assumed anti-intimidation powers forbidding the party to hold meetings in the triangle and Hippo Valley area made up of estates and farms. The order has immediate effect. At the weekend he first banning order had barred Mr Enos Nkala, treasurer of the party, from further participation in the campaign for allegedly inflammatory rhetoric.

The new move was prompted by reports from the area of electoral violence by Zanu, the party's military wing, which was preventing other parties from holding meetings and of general breaches of the ceasefire.

I understand the area was chosen precisely because it is not one of the worst intimidation scenes. Officials hope that the ban will therefore have a beneficial effect and bring about an improvement in the political atmosphere.

At Shabani, towards the south of the country, police stopped a car at a road-block and arrested two officials from the Zanu (PF) headquarters in Salisbury.

Mr Mugabe also said that his talk yesterday with Mr Joshua

Bias allegations, page 8

Racial beats GEC in battle for Decca

The takeover battle for silicium giant Decca ended abruptly when Racial announced that it had received irrevocable acceptances from enough holders to give it voting control of the company. Racial's new share offer is worth £103m at last night's closing prices and has been backed by a £160m cash alternative. General Electric

Afghan army rebellion is crushed

Kabul, Feb 14.—Soviet troops supported by tanks and two MiG23 fighter bombers have crushed an apparent rebellion at the Afghan Army garrison at Gargha, 12 miles north of Kabul, witnesses reported.

The rebellion lasted just over an hour on Monday. Western diplomats travelled to the scene from Kabul after seeing MiG jets drop bombs close to the village. Witnesses believed they were napalm bombs.

The diplomats were stopped from reaching the village by the police but managed to see Soviet troops and tanks go into action against the garrison. They heard automatic rifle, machine-gun and tank cannon fire. No details of casualties could be obtained but several ambulances were seen taking wounded to the military hospital in Kabul.

There was no confirmation of the incident from official sources.

Outside the towns the Russians are said to be meeting stiff resistance from insurgents and Western diplomats are talking of up to 2,500 Soviet casualties, with several hundred dead, since the intervention.

According to intelligence reports, a Soviet military column has entered the north-east Afghan town at the border town of Iskashim and is making for Payzabad where Afghan troops are said to be pinned down by insurgents.

Reports reaching Kabul from Kunduz, southern Afghanistan, and Herat in the west said that the bazaar strikes in both towns had ended, although the nightly roof-top protests against the Soviet presence were continuing.

In Kabul overnight on Monday, two big fires were reported—one at the post and telecommunications building in the centre of the city and another reportedly at an office block.

Sources said the Post Office fire occurred after curfew at 11 pm which suggested it was an act of sabotage. Agence France-Presse.

Divided Afghan Muslims, page 8

Compromise on EEC budget

The European Commission has presented its revised draft of the 1980 budget to the European Parliament. It replaces an earlier draft budget which was rejected by the European Parliament last December. The revised draft is an ingenious compromise between the cash-conscious attitude of EEC member states and the demands of the European Parliament. The planned curb on agricultural spending is being opposed by farming lobbies

Foul cost soccer player £2,400

An amateur footballer was ordered to pay £2,400 damages to an opponent he injured in a local game. The judge at the High Court in Bristol said that the man deliberately fouled his opponent, who needed a cartilage operation and whose work had suffered.

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Ulster terrorism: Newly appointed GoC issues forthright rejection of extreme military measures

Inquest juries: Home Office considers proposals for changing law after anomalies revealed in recent cases

Paris: Farmers demonstrate against British sheepmeat imports

Delhi: Two supporters of Mrs Gandhi win corruption case

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HOME NEWS

No police prosecutions in 26 cell death complaints, DPP says

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent
Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, told MPs yesterday that between 1970 and 1979 inclusive there were 26 cases after a complaint in which allegations were made that police action had resulted in death. In none of those cases had there been a prosecution.

Sir Thomas, who was giving evidence to the Select Committee on Home Affairs, said that the same criteria were applied whether to a private person or a person in a position of trust like a police officer.

The first hurdle was whether a reasonable jury was likely to convict. Then, there was the second hurdle faced: whether it was in the public interest to prosecute.

"We take into account the circumstances of the individual and the witness," he added. "If we had a detail in police custody and the first hurdle was crossed I cannot conceive of any circumstances where the second hurdle would not be crossed."

Each of the 26 cases fell at the first hurdle.

Originally, the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers QC, refused to consent to Sir Thomas appearing before the committee, and he gave written evidence with Sir Michael's authority.

Asked by the committee to reconsider the decision, Sir Michael was granted two hearings: that Sir Thomas's appearance would not be regarded as a precedent and that he would not be asked questions about individual cases. Asked yesterday if he took into account the fact that a prosecution would bring a particular police force into dis-

repute, Sir Thomas replied: "On the contrary, I would have thought that in any case of this gravity if the evidence was there we ought to prosecute."

The DPP's office kept its success rate under review, he said. The case must be considered before it went to an inquest. "It could be that if something emerges at the inquest and we have thought that we would not prosecute, we would reconsider our decision."

Mr Arthur Davidson, Labour MP for Accrington, put to Sir Thomas that he had the power, if he was not satisfied with information supplied by the police, to ask for further statements to be taken and more people to be interviewed. Did he have to do that more often in cases where police officers were involved?

Sir Thomas said that in his experience investigation done by police was extremely thorough. Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York, asked Sir Thomas why he was not in a position to issue a statement when he decided not to prosecute. Sir Thomas replied: "We have obviously to consider with great care whether it was right to give detailed reasons, not only in cases involving police, but others as well."

It would be wrong, first because statements taken by the police from witnesses were confidential documents. Secondly, it might also mean disclosing whether the DPP believed some of the witnesses, perhaps because of their record, or because there was a conflict as a result of which he might have to disclose details about the defendant.

Scargill dental: Mr Scargill last night described as "unconscious" claims that steel workers had been intimidated by the mass

The result would be a trial of the defendant in public.

Hadfields 'death on picket line' warning

From Nicholas Timmins
Sheffield

Workers at Hadfields, the private steel company in Sheffield, yesterday decided to rejoin the steel strike after a day of large-scale picketing at the company's East Hecla works that saw 22 arrests among the 1,200 pickets and a policeman taken to hospital.

Mr Derek Norton, chairman of Hadfields, said the decision meant that "intimidation has won a total victory" after what he described as "appalling" scenes outside the gates early yesterday.

He said there was a threat to human life from the scale and nature of the picketing, and he sent a telegram to Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Employment, to urge him to legislate "yesterday not tomorrow" and to warn him that before long "someone is going to get killed outside these gates".

The decision by the 280 Iron and Steel Trades Confederation members at the company's beleaguered East Hecla works came in the afternoon, after the 120 members at the company's Leeds Road plant decided in the morning to rejoin the strike.

The decision came after the workers' trouble so far outside the plant, with 23 pickets having been arrested this morning.

One thousand pickets, including 350 miners with Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, at the head, marched on the gates shortly after 5 am, blocking the road. Five were arrested.

Scargill dental: Mr Scargill last night described as "unconscious" claims that steel workers had been intimidated by the mass



Part of the 700-man police barrier formed outside Hadfields to cope with 1,200 pickets early yesterday.

picket at the Hadfields plant. There was a display of mass union solidarity", he said (the Press Association reports).

Sheerness injuries: Two flying pickets were injured at Sheerness. John of Sheerness, yesterday, is an incident involving a journey to the entrance to the town's docks (Cage Seven writes). The injury, however, was being interviewed by police last night.

Both pickets were arrested in hospital, one for a leg injury and the other for a cut hand, before being released. They had been part of a small con-

tigent of flying pickets on duty at the docks while up to 100 other pickets blockaded the private premises nearby of the Sheerness Steel company, whose workers have defied the strike call.

Iron and Steel Trades Confederation members at Sheerness Steel said they were unconcerned by reports that the decision of Hadfields workers in Sheffield to rejoin the strike

call at privately owned plants in the North-west had been a warning that if they continue to work they may be expelled from their union (R. W. Shakespeare writes from Manchester).

A spokesman for the con-

ference in London said that the executive council was meeting union officials from the private sector on Monday and it was unlikely that there would be any new decision on the Sheerness picket until then.

Expulsion threat: Steel workers who are defying the strike call at privately owned plants in the North-west had been a warning that if they continue to work they may be expelled from their union (R. W. Shakespeare writes from Manchester).

At the centre of the contro-

Steel dispute means BSC must make more cuts

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The national steel strike, now in its seventh week, is likely to accelerate further change in the shape and scope of the British Steel Corporation, which will be faced with the need to conserve cash in every area of its activities.

Sir Charles Villiers, the corporation's chairman, issued that warning yesterday during a visit to Teesside, where he defended the action taken by the corporation's board in its attitude towards pay and the need for wide-ranging cutbacks.

"Strike or no strike, British Steel is in the throes of major change; change accelerated by the dangerous commercial situation in which its markets are shrinking, the pound constantly strengthening, and its cost rising faster than the prices it can charge", he said.

If the board had not faced that change, with all its implications, it would have been faced with continuing, endless heavy losses, "the permanent pensioner who in the end is trundled off to the geriatric ward for a painless end".

The corporation would be forced, as a result of the strike, to conserve cash in every area of its activities. Decentralisation would have to be taken further.

Workers at one of Britain's main private-sector steelmakers yesterday voted overwhelmingly, in a secret ballot, against their union's instruction to continue striking and expressed the wish to return to work.

Bristol arrest: A striking steelworker was arrested in Bristol yesterday after scuffles between more than 30 flying pickets and police outside "Woodberry" Calicot, a firm of private steel stockpilers.

Senior MPs seek abortion Bill compromise

By Our Political Correspondent

Five senior members of the House of Commons last night appealed to fellow MPs to come to a compromise agreement on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which resumes its report stage in the House today.

The MPs are Mr Jo Grimond, the former Liberal leader, Mr Edward du Cann, former Conservative Party chairman and now 1922 Committee chairman, Sir Derek Walker-Smith, Conservative MP for Hertfordshire, East, Mr Frederick Mulley, Labour MP for Sheffield, Park, and Mr Arthur Bortomley, a former Labour Cabinet minister.

The five MPs hope that in return for agreement on the compromise the sponsors of the Bill would be willing to withdraw other sections of the measure. As MPs left the House last night many seemed unaware of the appeal, and it could be that the group of five have left it too late for their words to have much effect on today's proceedings.

an abortion can be allowed to 24 weeks.

Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute, said earlier this week that he would be prepared to support a compromise of 22 weeks. But he thought that 24 weeks was "too late" and the focus might be available at that stage, especially if a doctor's diagnosis was a walk out.

The five MPs hope that in return for agreement on the compromise the sponsors of the Bill would be willing to withdraw other sections of the measure.

They say they believe that wide agreement now exists for a reduction of the period when

Debate on rural post offices

By Our Political Editor

The Government is expected to announce next Tuesday how it proposes to give effect to Sir Derek Rayner's proposals for reducing the frequency and varying the method of payment of security benefits, which has been widely taken as a threat to the viability of rural post offices.

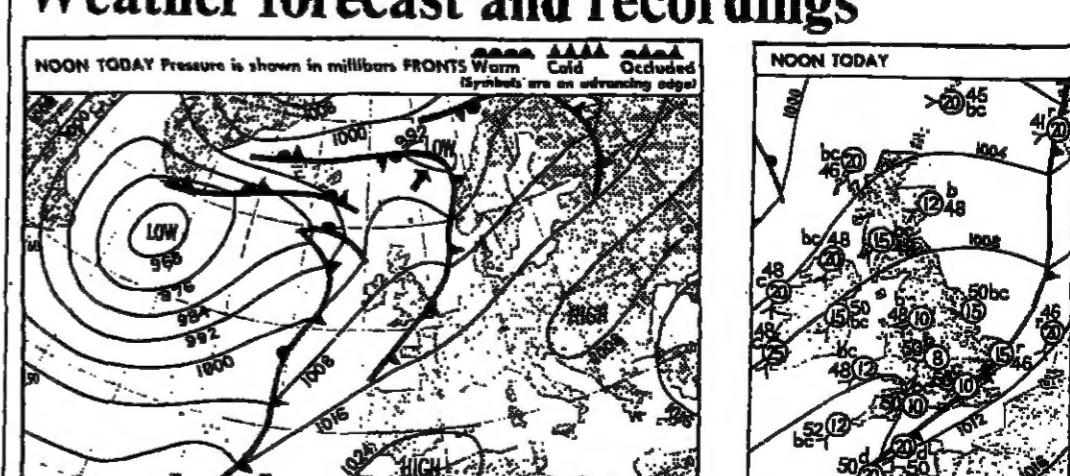
The Labour Opposition has chosen to debate the issue and its hope will be to embarrass the Government by attracting Conservative backbench support. More than 100 MPs, including many Conservatives, have signed a number of early day motions protesting at any

measure that would force the closure of rural post offices.

Yesterday Mrs Margaret Thatcher at question time was at pains to insist that Sir Derek, the part-time adviser she borrowed from Marks and Spencer to conduct a war on government waste, was seeking to provide a greater range of choice. He had acted on a survey which showed that many pensioners would accept payment of benefits through their bank accounts, and less frequently than weekly.

Ministers insisted last night that there was no intention to bring about closures of sub-postoffices.

Weather forecast and recordings



Picture the scene:

On the one hand, a man born, bred and hardened in the West Riding, running his own small chemical company.

On the other, a man born, bred and hardened in West Byfleet, running a large investment company somewhere in the City.

The only thing they have in common is money.

One needs it. The other has popped up from the City for the day to see if he can help.

But it's going to take more than the knowledge of the finer points of finance.

Because, financing and also helping smaller businesses is a highly specialised and local affair.

And frankly, no one can help you better than ICFC.

That's because over the years we've dealt exclusively with small businessmen, so we reckon to understand them pretty well.

You'll see what we mean if you contact one of our offices dotted around the country.

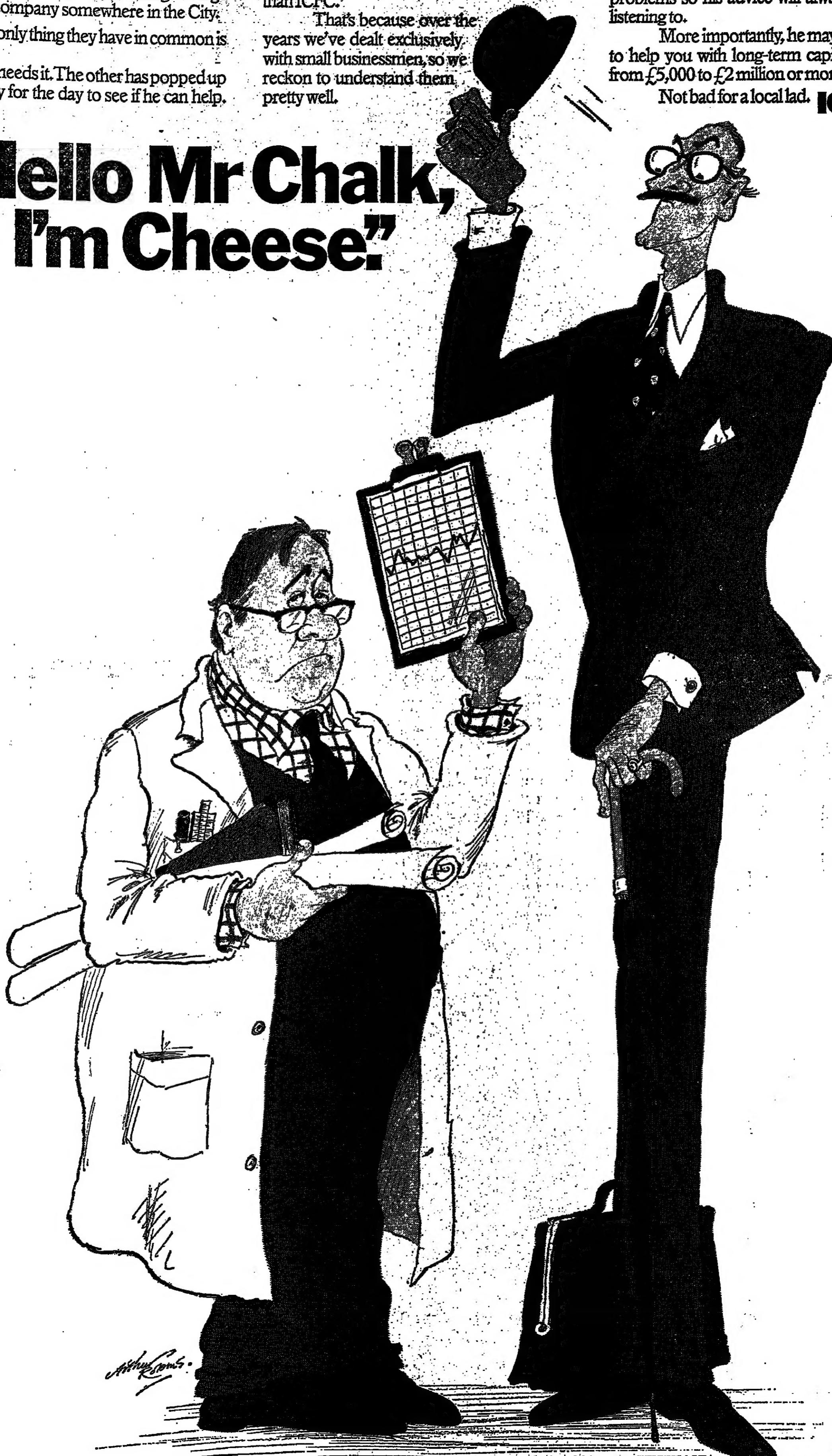
Each one is run by a man who knows the area and the people like the back of his hand.

He will understand you and your problems so his advice will always be worth listening to.

More importantly, he may well be able to help you with long-term capital, anything from £5,000 to £2 million or more.

Not bad for a local lad. **ICFC**

"Hello Mr Chalk, I'm Cheese"



HOME NEWS

Parents give 'Dr Who' a bitter pill to swallow

By Kenneth Gosling

Violence and cruelty in television programmes are still worrying parents, according to a survey carried out for *TV Times*. They were less worried, however, about the portrayal of sex and only 8 per cent of 500 mothers who were questioned gave it as a reason for concern.

Parents seemed reluctant to ban particular programmes. Of those they felt should be taken off, the BBC's *Dr Who* came at the top of the list; but was mentioned by only 6 per cent of people questioned.

European Marketing Surveys found that nearly all the mothers they spoke to said their children watched television every day; 67 per cent agreed that it was a useful way of holding their children's attention.

Just under half the children between five and eight years old watched right up to their bedtimes and 34 per cent in this same group were allowed to watch later at weekends.

As for the programmes their offspring enjoyed most, 82 per cent of mothers singled out *The Muppet Show*, *Blue Peter* was also rated highly.

Among the programmes mothers disapproved of were a number screened after the 9 pm "watershed" when television companies allow shows of a more adult nature to be screened. These included *The Professionals*, *Quatermass* and *Star-Sky* and *Hutch*; but adventure series before 9 pm like *Chips*, *Charlie's Angels* and *Hawthorne* were more acceptable.

Plans for pay television service expected within a few days

By David Hewson

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is expected to announce plans for a pay television service within the next few days.

Three of Britain's largest television rental companies, Rediffusion, British Relay and Radio Rentals, are at an advanced stage in planning applications to operate a service that could start next year.

Initially the service would consist of evening showings of recent films, and would be confined to areas served by a cable television network. This now covers only 14 per cent of British television viewers, who would pay about £4 to £5 a month for the service.

The idea is being greeted with enthusiasm within the BBC, not because it would like to operate parts of the service, but because it is keen to sell its popular programmes to independent contractors.

The independent television companies' cable television committee has yet to decide on whether it would make or sell programmes for the system.

Rediffusion is engaged on market research in Hull, where it has 30,000 homes on a cable system.

Other possible areas for a pay service are Swindon, Greenwich and Sheffield, London, Birmingham and Manchester. They do not have a cable service and could be connected to a system only at considerable expense.

Salt marsh reclamation cost 'not justified'

By Our Planning Reporter

There was no economic case for the reclamation of about 200 acres of salt marsh at Gedney Drove End, on the south-west shore of the Wash, a public inquiry was told yesterday.

Giving evidence on behalf of the Nature Conservancy, Mr John Bowers, a senior lecturer in economics at Leeds University, said that even if the extra agricultural land could be created at no cost, and with no detriment to the environment, he would have serious reservations on whether it would be worth while.

Mr Bowers contended that the crops likely to be grown on the land either were already, or were likely to be, in surplus within the EEC. Taking into account Britain's contributions to the common agricultural policy, the cost of reclamation could not be justified in terms of a saving on imports.

Sir Richard Lawson: "I am not here to destroy Ulster."

He insisted that this was the time for a cool head and sustained courage. "I am confident that with good police and Army work we shall bring the killers and the bombers to book."

The Army had no plans to withdraw. There would be changes in the pattern of deployment, but the changes would be made with the aim of sharpening the operations and in consultation with the police.

The terrorist could no longer

General rejects hard response to defeat terrorists

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Lawson, GOC, and director of military operations, Northern Ireland, yesterday rejected extreme military measures against terrorism.

In his first public speech since his appointment last month, he made clear that he would not respond to those who wanted him to "go in hard and flush out those terrorists whatever the cost" or who said that "what we want are bodies, what we want are skulls, and we do not care how you get them".

He told a Chamber of Commerce lunch: "I am not in that business. I have not come here to destroy Ulster. Nor have I any intention of leading my soldiers to defeat. For such a wild and totally impracticable course of action is not only a guaranteed recipe for disaster, it is also a sure-fire way to give the terrorist his victory on a plate."

Sir Richard acknowledged that terrorism would be felt in the province for some time. But he believed the trend was down wards. As a result of the growing strength and professionalism of the police and the continuing presence of the Army the terrorist had publicly conceded that a military victory was not within his grasp.

A police official said: "This



pose is a Robin Hood or William Tell. Daily, he was being pushed further out towards the fringes of society.

"As he looks to the future the terrorist has only one hope left, and that is that we will make the mistake from which he can benefit, and his actions are now geared towards provoking us to overreact to his provocation. It is very much like judo; using your opponents' muscles to achieve a win."

Sir Richard was at pains to emphasize the level of cooperation existing between the police and the Army. He and the Chief Constable, Mr John Hermon, "think as one" and had mutual trust.

He insisted that this was the time for a cool head and sustained courage. "I am confident that with good police and Army work we shall bring the killers and the bombers to book."

The Army had no plans to withdraw. There would be changes in the pattern of deployment, but the changes would be made with the aim of sharpening the operations and in consultation with the police.

A police official said: "This

material, which can cause permanent damage to health, has been turning up over the past two weeks.

"We're pretty sure it has all been cleared but we are concerned in case more bags are dumped. We are warning children in particular not to touch any suspect bags."

Footballer to pay £2,400 to opponent he fouled

From Our Correspondent

An amateur footballer was counting the cost yesterday of a foul tackle that landed him in court. Derek Shilson, aged 25, was ordered to pay £2,400 damages to a man he put in hospital during a local league "derby".

The High Court in Bristol found that Mr Shilson, of Park Lane, Frampton Cotterell, near Bristol, had deliberately set out to foul an opponent. He tackled Mr Paul Manning after a corner and left him "screaming with pain on the ground", Judge Fallon, QC, decided.

The referee of the game, between Frampton Athletic FC and Stapleton FC, Mr Stephen White, said that he thought Mr Shilson, a defender for Frampton, had gone for the man rather than the ball. He sent Shilson off and Mr Manning was taken to hospital, where he needed a cartilage operation on his left knee.

Mr Manning, aged 26, a carpenter, of Stapleton, Bristol, said that he could no longer work on roofs after the injury in March, 1978. He was being paid £5 a week less because he could not do the same job as other carpenters or climb up ladders.

Mr Shilson, who married last Saturday, said he had gone for the ball but made a late tackle.

Mr White sent him off for his own safety, as hordes of angry spectators and players milled around, and not because of the foul.

After the hearing Mr Shilson said he did not know how he was going to pay the damages.

"There is no way I am going to pay £2,400 again after this," he said. "I cannot afford to take the risk."

I have had many injuries in football myself, but I do not take people to court for it. If everyone who fouled a player was taken to court, it would be a pretty mess.

Mr Manning refused to comment.

Stricter contract sought for marriage with children

A stricter wedding contract for adults who decide to have children is urged today in a book commissioned by the Government. Two types of marriages should be considered, a looser agreement for childless couples and a more binding one for those intending to have a family, Dr Mia Kellmer Pringle, director of the National Children's Bureau, says.

In the book, *The Needs of Children*, commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security, she says that the necessity to bring children up in a secure and stimulating environment is being increasingly neglected.

The views of women's rights groups and the preoccupation with material possessions is often devastating the family unit, she says.

"Should there be two different forms of marriage?" she asks. "One would involve only a simple contract, designed to protect the interests of both partners in case of a breakdown, which could be terminated readily at the request of either."

"The other contract would involve a much more binding commitment of at least 10 or 15 years, because the couple were wishing to raise a family and were prepared to put the needs of their children above their own individual self-fulfilment."

"This contract would be much more difficult to terminate."

Dr Kellmer Pringle said yesterday that she believed a scheme of that kind would prevent the trend towards "serial marriages", which are common in the United States and becoming increasingly common here.

"Today's children are the seed corn of the future. How we treat them will determine the quality of life for tomorrow. The denigration of parenting and the devaluing of children has now really reached quite horrific proportions."

She would like also to see introduced a curb on people below the age of 18 or 20 from having children.

Objectors fail in action against Fife gas plant

From Our Own Correspondent

The European Community is to offer loan facilities of £100m to the South of Scotland Electricity Board as a contribution to the cost of building the nuclear power station at Torness Point, East Lothian.

The loan will be the first financial approval for the United Kingdom under the Euratom loan scheme and is in line with the commission's policy of reducing EEC dependence on imported oil by developing alternative sources of energy.

Site work has started at Mossmorran and on preparations for the marine terminal at Braefoot Bay, on the Firth of Forth.

The company hopes the plant will be operating by the end of 1982, taking gas from the Brent Field.

The protest group plan to oppose the project at every stage of construction and operation and a petition to the European Court of Human Rights is being considered.

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Sealink has said the strike would threaten some commercial sailings to Zeebrugge and Dunkirk.

Sealink strike called off

Sealink ships' officers at Harwich yesterday called off a strike due to have started at 7 am. The 180 officers, members of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, had voted to strike in a dispute over pay differentials with

ratings.

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HOME NEWS

Increase in London parking fines is urged

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The fixed penalty fine for illegal parking in London should be increased from £5 to £10, but offenders should be given a discount for paying promptly, a report on the enforcement of parking restrictions states.

It also urges increased pay for traffic wardens so that enough can be recruited, and says that more prosecutions should be heard at suburban courts.

The report, to the Greater London Council, is by a working party set up jointly by the Home Secretary and the Minister of Transport after complaints from the GLC that its traffic management policies were being undermined by lack of enforcement.

The report says that traffic congestion in London is getting worse. Average speeds have fallen from 14 mph to 12 mph during the morning peak in central London in the past five years.

Advocating a discount for prompt payment of fines, the report says that of 1,500,000 tickets issued in 1978, fewer than 10 per cent were paid within 28 days. Discount for early payment should reduce the number of cases in which time and money is spent tracking down the vehicle owner.

There are about 1,150 traffic wardens in London, compared with the 2,500 needed.

NF opponents prepare to unite in counter-march

By David Nicholson-Lord
Other opponents of the National Front are likely to fall into line with yesterday's decision by the Anti-Nazi League to change the date of a counter-demonstration against the front in south London.

The league's decision came after Wednesday's disclosure by the NF that it would be staging an "anti-mugging" march starting at Camberwell on March 2, not February 24 as originally announced. NF leaders said that was a "ruse" designed to show publicly that the violence associated with its marches was sought by left-wing opponents.

The Anti-Nazi League, together with the Southwark Campaign against Racism and Fascism (Scar) and the Labour Party Young Socialists, had planned to counter-march on

Court power over property after divorce proposed

By Our Legal Correspondent
A court should have the power to order the sale of property after a divorce, a report by the Law Commission proposes.

A court has extensive powers to redistribute capital assets after divorce, nullity proceedings or judicial separation. But it has no express powers to order property to be sold, although that result can be achieved in a more circuitous way.

The commission's recommendation is designed to simplify and rationalize the court's powers, rather than to confer new benefits on parties to a divorce.

Report on orders for sale of property under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (Law Commission 99, Stationery Office, £1.75).

Press Council backs theatre

The Press Council yesterday upheld a complaint that the London Evening News gave the National Theatre inadequate time to investigate and comment on damaging and groundless allegations about extravagant spending before it published them.

However, it rejected the theatre's complaint that the newspaper gave insufficient prominence to a rebuttal.

Prison officers on assault charges

Three prison officers at Peterhead top security prison were accused at Peterhead Sheriff Court yesterday of assaulting prisoners. Pleas of not guilty were tendered by a solicitor in their absence.

The men, McKenzie Brebner, aged 32, Alastair Ross, aged 31, and Cyril Wallace, aged 34, were committed to appear in Peterhead on June 5.

Princess "much better"

Princess Margaret, who has had a virus infection, was "up and about" and feeling much better, it was said at Clarence House yesterday.

'Body in quarry' hearing

From Our Correspondent

Wigan
Magistrates at Chorley, Lancashire, yesterday fixed committal proceedings for May 19 in respect of 11 people facing charges arising from the death of Mr Christopher Martin Johnstone, aged 27, a New Zealander, whose handless body was found in a flooded quarry at Eccles, near Chorley, in October.

The accused are charged with conspiracy to contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act and five of them are also accused of Mr Johnstone's murder and conspiracy to murder him.

12 years for Dutchmen in Scotland's worst case under drugs Act

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Three Dutchmen were jailed for 12 years each yesterday after they were found guilty at the High Court in Edinburgh of being concerned in the unlawful production of the drug methyl amphetamine.

Jan Stuurman, aged 28, Dick Ruiter, aged 40, and Albertus Merks, aged 34, were also found guilty of being in possession of 2,849 grammes of the drug. The offences took place at Cleves Cottage, West Linton, Peeblesshire, and at an address in Monikie, Angus.

After a 14-day trial the jury took an hour and 20 minutes to return their unanimous verdict of guilty.

The judge, Lord Allanbridge, had ordered that Mrs Reinette Stuurman, aged 21, who faced a charge of being concerned in the production of the drug, should be discharged because there was not enough evidence against her.

Passing sentence, the judge described the offences as probably the most serious under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971, ever to come before the Scottish courts. He told the three men: "I entirely agree with the forensic reports which indicate your complete operation had been studied in detail, carefully researched and meticulously planned." Such criminal activities would not be tolerated in Scotland.

He commanded the police who took part in what became known as "Operation Muller".

Whitelaw pledge of more aid for immigrants

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A dawn raid on Cleves Cottage and the Monikie address culminated in the arrest of the three men after months of police observation.

From the time suspicions were aroused, the judge said, the handling of investigations by every single police officer concerned merited the highest praise. Any false move would have alerted the criminals, but in the event the net of "Operation Muller" was closed at exactly the right time.

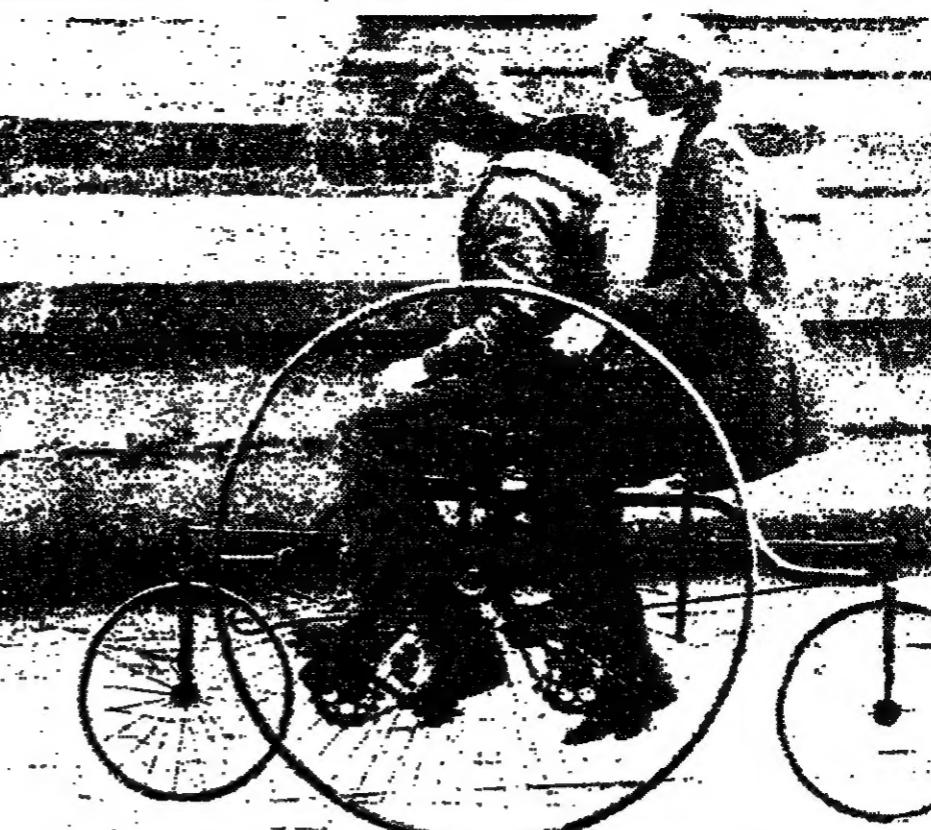
Funds from the Manpower Services Commission for industrial language training are to be increased and £30m will go this year in grants to local authorities to meet Commonwealth immigrants' special needs. Most of it will go towards education.

Mr Whitelaw was accentuating the positive in a sensitive political role. He was guest of honour at a dinner party organized by the Union of Muslim Organizations of the United Kingdom and Eire to celebrate the Prophet's birthday.

The Home Secretary commented: "I hope that we shall before long be able to put behind us the arguments about immigration and the changes in Britain.

He added tactfully that he wanted to focus rather on people in minorities living in Britain.

He concluded: "Parliament and government has made and will continue to make changes to enable members of the ethnic minorities to have equal opportunities. By the same token, people who have decided to come and settle here will accept as I am sure so many do, that they, too, will need to adjust and strike roots in our society."



Dr. Graham Nicholson (right), curator of the Castle Museum, York, trying out his latest acquisition, an 1878 Rudge tandem tricycle.

Few complaints about package holidays

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Nearly two thirds of those who took package holidays in the 12 months to October last year were "very satisfied".

Most complaints were about serious delays in travelling, the food, hotel facilities, changed holiday arrangements and overbooking of hotels. Nearly one eighth of the holidaymakers

Alcoholism rise 'due to fall in real price'

The cost of coping with alcoholism is reaching "frightening proportions", Sir Bernard Braine, chairman of the National Council on Alcoholism, claimed yesterday.

He blamed the increase in drinking on the fall in the relative price of drink. It was disturbing that more women and children were needing treatment, he told a conference organized by Alcoholics Anonymous in London.

Sir Bernard, Conservative MP for Essex, South-east, said the cost to industry in managerial misjudgment, poor decision-making, faulty work and absenteeism was estimated at £350m a year.

"Add to this figure the economic and social cost of hospitalization and permanent injury, and the burden reaches frightening proportions", he said.

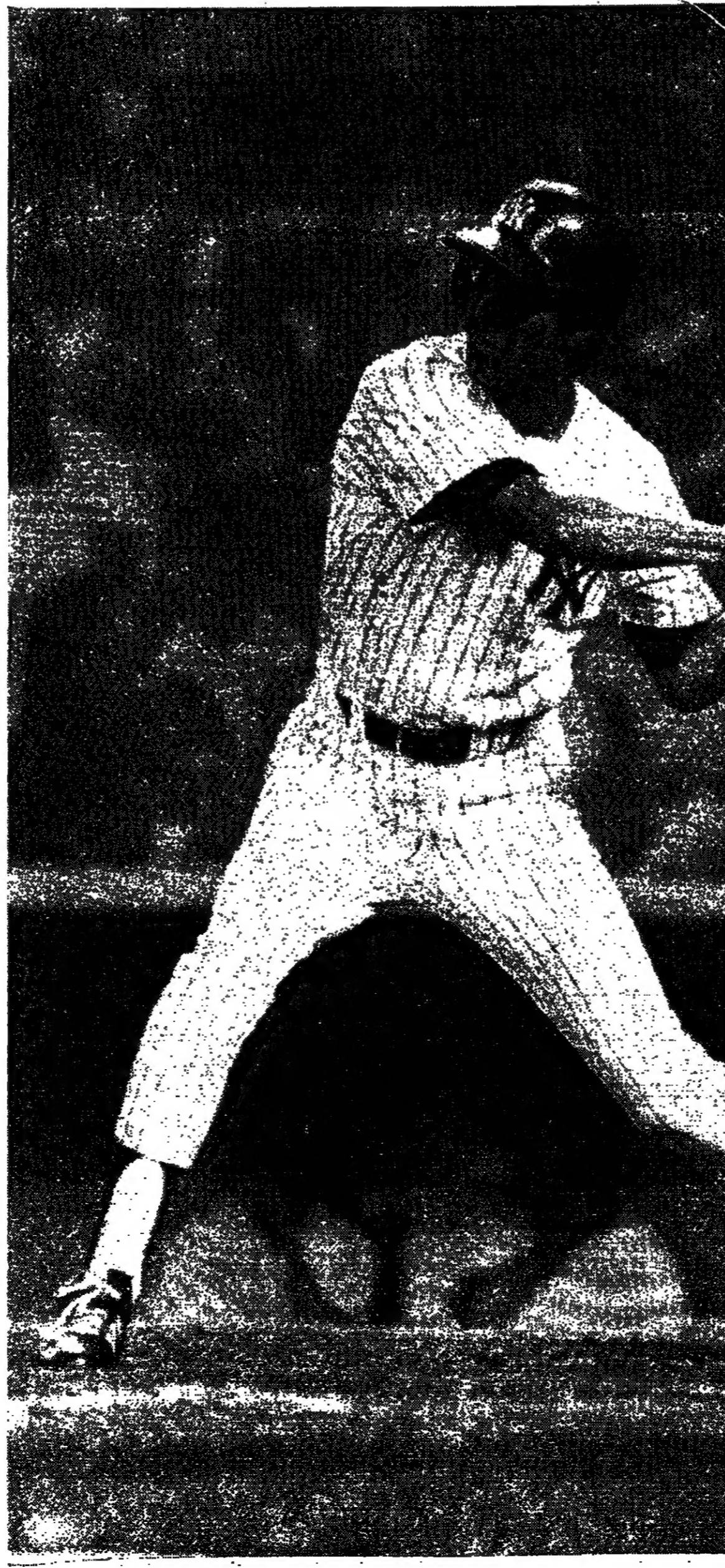
The pressure on the National Health Service was becoming intolerable. In the last 10 years admissions to hospitals for the treatment of alcoholics had doubled.

"In 1950 a male manual worker in Britain on average wages had to work 23 minutes to earn the price of a pint of beer and six and a half hours to earn the price of a bottle of whisky."

"By 1976 the price of beer had come down to 12 minutes and the bottle of whisky to only two hours."

Sir Bernard urged that a consistent relationship should be achieved between the price of alcohol and the level of disposable income.

SUCCESS IN AMERICA IS A DIFFERENT BALL GAME.



For the last sixteen years, Hanson Trust has pursued one simple philosophy: for a company to succeed, especially a British company abroad, it needs excellent management. Our commitment to first class management is relentless, and nowhere has this paid off more for Hanson Trust than in our pursuit of success in the USA.

GET TO FIRST BASE

Our simple philosophy has had no harder test than in the USA. We entered the American market in 1973, in one of the toughest periods since the thirties and against a mounting tide of business opinion.

Subsequent events proved us right and our investment in Seacoast Products Inc., our first base for further investment, proved to be extremely successful. Last year Seacoast caught a billion menhaden fish, processing them profitably into edible oils and high protein fish meal for poultry feed.

A TRIPLE PLAY...

The success of Seacoast encouraged Hanson Trust to cast around for other areas of investment in the USA.

In 1975, we acquired Carisbrook Industries Inc., a year later Hygrade Food Products Corporation and, in 1977, the national food service company, Interstate United Corporation.

Hygrade, with its \$600 million a year sales, is best known to Americans for the Ball Park frankfurter which is rated as the second largest selling brand of frankfurter in the States and has achieved a faster sales growth than any competing brand. Interstate, one of America's foremost food service companies, now provides over three million meals a day coast to coast.

WINNING ON THE ROAD AND AT HOME...

Essential criteria had to be met for our investments in America: proven performance of the management team and the nature and record of its business. We searched for companies with good management in basic industries. We gave the existing American management the freedom to manage itself, apart from rigid financial control exercised by our central financial team.

The companies continue to be run by Americans for the American market, and it works for Hanson Trust. US sales are in excess of \$1 billion a year and the contribution to corporate profits was over £16 million in 1979.

Success "on the road" in the USA, while being a different ball game, is only half the story. Hanson Trust also has a continuing story of success at home. For the full picture, please send for our

Annual Report to Hanson Trust, FREEPOST, London SW3 1BR (no stamp required) or 'phone (01) 589 7070.

Hanson Trust

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HOME NEWS

Security checks made on Labour movement activities, group states

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Security and intelligence services spend considerable time and resources checking on the activities of the Labour movement, a Labour Party study group alleged yesterday.

In a pamphlet, *Has Big Brother got a file on you?*, which is being sent to all constituency parties and to trade unions, members are being asked to set up subcommittees to collect evidence of surveillance by the Security Service (MIS) and the Special Branch.

It is claimed to be the first time when the whole party and union movement is being asked to take part in the formulation of party policy.

The report from the constituencies will go to the special group, under the chairmanship of Miss Jo Richardson, MP for Barking, and a member of the national executive committee, which will draw up a report to be submitted to the party conference next year, recommending changes in the law to make the security services more accountable to Parliament and to force the disclosure of more information from official sources about their activities.

The pamphlet states that the security and intelligence services regard certain "subversives" as being just as much of a threat and an equally legitimate target, as foreign spies or invaders. Yet there is no crime of "subversion" on the Statute Book.

In 1963 a subversive was officially defined by Lord Denning as a person who "would contemplate the overthrow of government by unlawful means".

That, says the pamphlet, is a fairly clear definition. But present and previous Home Secretaries had adopted a different definition. Subversive acts, to them, were "activities which threaten the safety or well-being of the state and are intended to undermine or overthrow parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means".

"This definition", the group states, "is so unclear that it can give continued licence for spying, surveillance and record-keeping by the state over legitimate political activities."

Dealing with the forms of surveillance to be reported on, the more specialist methods include telephone tapping, the opening of mail and the placing of eavesdropping equipment in offices and homes.

"By far the most extensive surveillance is the semi-clau-

destine photographing of speakers and participants at political meetings, marches and demonstrations", the pamphlet alleges.

"In addition", it is claimed, "both the Special Branch and MIS recruit informers and on occasions plant infiltrators."

Information obtained by surveillance may be used generally to report on, and if need be to disrupt or otherwise control, the activities of Labour, leftist and trade union activities, the group states.

Miss Richardson said at a press conference called to launch the pamphlet that it was extremely difficult for MPs to get information about the security services, their expenditure, manpower, structure and efficiency. She gave out copies of questions which she had not been allowed to table in the House of Commons.

"These show quite clearly the powers of civil servants in the Table Office of the House of Commons to block MPs", she said, although she added that they were doing their duty by acting on past precedents.

Questions ruled inadmissible were to various ministers, asking: how many personnel are employed in the Defence Intelligence Staff; where can estimates of public expenditure on the Defence Intelligence staffs, D15 and D16, be located; what reporting procedures for the Secret Services have been introduced in the past six months; what steps is the Prime Minister taking to restore full political control over the Secret Services; and is an internal inquiry now taking place into the Blunt case.

Mr Duncan Campbell, the journalist who was a defendant in the ABC trial, and who reported on the extent of telephone tapping in recent articles in the *New Statesman*, is a member of the group.

He said that the specific prohibition on the tapping of MPs' telephones which Sir Harold Wilson introduced had been so weakened that it was now not very effective. Political aides employed by members of the last Labour government were under surveillance at one time or another.

Many members of the party involved in trade union disputes of a perfectly legitimate character had had their phones tapped.

Mr Campbell claimed that from his inquiries he judged that 10 or so MPs had been under surveillance; that number excluded the many occasions when MPs might have been in touch with other people who were being tapped.

British Council fears huge job loss after cuts

By John O'Leary

The Higher Education Supplement

Ministers have ordered a further cut of £3.9m in the budget of the British Council after an inter-departmental review of the council's work. The savings, to be made over three years, will be announced in a White Paper.

The council had estimated that a cut of 15 per cent in its budget for 1980-81 would cost more than 500 jobs in Britain and abroad. With the total reduction over four years topping 20 per cent, it fears that half the council staff in the United Kingdom and a third of those overseas may be made redundant.

More cuts may result from a review of the work of the Overseas Development Administration, which provides more than half the council's funds. No indication has been given of the ODA's contribution beyond 1981.

The board of the British Council, which met yesterday, is to ask the Government to reconsider the latest cuts. It says going beyond the past 11.5 per cent cut would irreparably damage its contribution to Britain's vital overseas interests.

An additional concern to the Council is that the £3.9m reduction has been set at 1979 prices and will represent considerably more in real terms because of its spread over three years.

A spokesman for the council said that the latest cuts would probably mean a complete withdrawal from 12 countries and the closure of offices in some larger countries where more than one exists. Up to 25 more countries might be affected by staff withdrawals.

Single system of exams for 16-plus children

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

The Government has decided to move towards more unified system of examining for pupils at the age of 16, but O level standards will be retained. However, it is unlikely that there will be any changes for several years, certainly not before 1985.

The Government said yesterday that it had completed its consultations with the main interested parties on the future of the Certificate of Secondary Education and O level examinations, and would give the details of its decision on Tuesday.

A single system of grading will be introduced for examinations at 16 plus, so that, for example, there will no longer be confusion over how to relate, say, a grade 2 at O level to a comparable CSE grade.

The only direct comparison made now, and that is much questioned, is to equate a grade 1 CSE with a grade C at O level.

Teachers give priority to action on oversize classes

By Our Education

Correspondent

A motion reaffirming the National Union of Teachers' commitment to take industrial action on "oversize" classes from next September has been voted top priority for discussion at the union's annual conference in April.

One third of primary pupils, amounting to nearly 1,500,000

Coroners concerned over selection procedures

Home Office may seek change in the law on inquest juries

By Marcel Berlins

Legal Correspondent

The Home Office is considering proposing changes to the law on inquest juries after the anomalies and shortcomings that were revealed by the cases of Blair Peach and James Kelly.

"In addition", it is claimed, "both the Special Branch and MIS recruit informers and on occasions plant infiltrators."

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British dairy farmers told they are not best

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

The common view that British dairy farming is the most efficient in Europe was challenged yesterday at a meeting of the Common Agricultural Committee on Agriculture. Professor John Bowman, director of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University, said that a combination of high yields and extensive feed of storage did not make farming here the best.

"We must not make the assumption that we necessarily have the best part of the Community for producing milk", he said. "We are by no means the most efficient. The United Kingdom dairy industry is in the top half of the league table in Europe."

He told the committee in written evidence that "on average dairy farms in the Netherlands and Belgium achieve higher productivity than do United Kingdom farms. However, they compare favourably with the Danish and achieve much higher productivity levels than French, German and Italian farms."

The nine members of the committee spent the morning grappling with the EEC dairy surplus after visiting dairy farms in Berkshire. Mr Douglas Hogg, Conservative MP for Grantham, wondered whether the surplus could be cut by reducing the use of expensive, imported protein feed on dairy farms. That might lower yields without reducing farmers' profits.

"We were rather impressed by the profit that Irish farmers get from their production", Mr Hogg said. "British milk yields per cow are more than half as great again as those in the Irish Republic."

Committee members debated whether a cut in EEC milk prices would reduce yields. Professor Victor Beynon, from Exeter University, said a cut might not affect the smallest farms, whose owners often worked in factories while their wives looked after the farms.

Professor Bowman suggested that "the effect of a squeeze on these smaller farms would probably be to buy a few more cows".

Assay office sit-in after 'panic' dismissal of staff

By Frank Arthur Osman

Birmingham

A motion reaffirming the National Union of Teachers' commitment to take industrial action on "oversize" classes from next September has been voted top priority for discussion at the union's annual conference in April.

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on a coroners' jury more than three times a year, there is only a Home Office circular urging that more women should be chosen and suggesting that jurors should not all come from one narrow area.

About 5 per cent of inquests take place with a jury. The main circumstances are: where the death was by murder or manslaughter; where it occurred in a prison or in police custody; where there are specific statutes requiring a jury (for example, deaths in rail and air accidents and industrial poisoning); and where the death "occurred in circumstances the continuance or possible recurrence of which is prejudicial to the health or safety of the public".

That last criterion was applied by the Court of Appeal in deciding to order a jury in the Blair Peach case. Coroners are worried that other deaths not previously considered to be of a jury might now come under the wide interpretation given by Lord Denning.

Many coroners believe that it is time for the law to be changed so that their juries are broadly in line with ordinary juries, and are picked, paid and challenged in the same way.

WEST EUROPE



Led by stil-walkers and a Tricolour-draped animal, French sheep farmers protest in Paris.

Sheep men bleat angrily in Paris

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 14

Sheep Farmers, which organized the demonstration, called the Minister to defend firmly his position in Brussels, and to maintain import restrictions on British sheepmeat so long as a new market organization for sheepmeat has not been set up by the European Community.

Sheep farming, according to the federation, is the main source of livelihood of 200,000 people in France and an essential part of the rural economy of some poorer regions.

Like sheep and rang small bells, the demonstrators bleated as the picturesque cortège, two to three miles long, wound its way from the Place de la République to the Mutualité Hall, where the sheep farmers were holding their annual general assembly this afternoon.

Parisians who watched with curiosity and amusement could be in no doubt as to who the enemy was. The farmers' banners and placards read: "Out with the British", "British go home", and "British accomplices of the New Zealanders".

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At the entrance to the hall, where Al Pierre Mehauguer, the Minister for Agriculture, was expected, one large streamer proclaimed: "French sheep farmers want to live".

Another streamer read: "Let us save our sheepfolds, pitch our McNaughtons".

The National Federation of

to increase this year by 7 to 8 per cent if the income of French farmers were to be maintained.

"How can one be satisfied with the increases by the EEC Commission (2.4 per cent on average) where production costs in Agriculture are going to rise by 10 to 11 per cent?" he asked.

The French Government's position is that it will not move on Britain's EEC budget problem without getting British concessions on agricultural prices and of British sheep exports.

Mr Jean-Baptiste Doumenq, the "red multi-millionaire" member of the Communist Party for half a century, was even tougher on the radio yesterday. M Doumenq is founder and president of Interagro, the largest food export-import company in France, specializing in trade with the Soviet block.

Britain, according to the new arrangements, is to be the malfunctioning of the common agricultural policy, he said. At the same time as one limited EEC budget production, one allowed the British to import 200,000 tons of New Zealand butter, when all that was required was a French veto in Brussels to stop it.

Either France should leave the EEC, or Britain should be booted out of it, he said.

The new arrangements are due to come into effect on March 1 when the restaurants will shut again if the Government does not agree to modify its proposals.

A meeting between representatives of the restaurant owners and Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, last night failed to change the situation and the final decision to lock out customers was announced today.

The restaurants maintain that the Government is placing too much administrative work on restaurant staffs especially for the small family businesses and showing an excessively severe attitude by the heavy punishment on transgressors.

They have asked for simplification of the receipt forms, time to allow the new system to be run in and a reasonable period of practice before heavy fines are inflicted.

They are also complaining that the authorities fail to give them adequate protection against the wave of violence which has struck restaurants, especially in Milan and Rome.

Madrid Metro crash injures more than 80

Madrid, Feb 14.—More than 80 people were injured seriously, when a Madrid underground train collided during the morning rush hour.

A spokesman for the Madrid Governor's office said the first train was running slowly because of a broken rail in a bend known to Metro workers as "the death curve". A second train drove into it from the back after its brakes failed.

The once privately-owned Madrid Metro was put under Government control nearly two years ago after more than 200 people were injured in two accidents in four days. Reuter

Nine offered ingenious compromise budget

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Feb 14

The EEC Commission today presented the European Parliament with its revised draft for the 1980 budget, to replace the original proposals by EEC budget ministers. Countries like France, seem certain to insist that the result of the farm-price fixing, which could drag on well into the summer, should be included in the amended draft. The Council will eventually pass to the Parliament.

The new budget is about £10,310m, of which £9,250m would actually be spent in the calendar year 1980. The rest would be carried forward into the next year.

The comparable figures (at current exchange rates) in the draft budget rejected last December by the Parliament were £10,490m and £9,710m.

The structure in the overall size of the proposed budget is explained mainly by a cut of 10% on farm price support, the main item in the budget.

As Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Commissioner for the Budget explained today to the Parliament, this has enabled the Commission to add £220m or so to non-farm spending, mainly on the development of the EEC's poorer regions and industrial restructuring schemes.

Looked at more closely, the new draft budget does little to alter the overall imbalance in the Community's spending priorities. Farm spending, for example, would still account for more than 70 per cent of total expenditure in calendar 1980.

None the less, the curb on agricultural spending, coupled with more money for other areas—even if

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Paris

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WEST EUROPE

Soviet official caught spying by French

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 14
Mr Gennadi Trakov a Soviet consul general in Marseilles, was caught on Saturday by officials of the DST, the French counter-espionage agency, as he was taking delivery of defence secrets concerning the Mirage 2000 combat aircraft.

It is scheduled to replace the Mirage 3 fighter of the French Air Force by 1984. Four prototypes of the aircraft are now undergoing trials at Istres, near Marseilles.

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The Soviet official left Marseilles for Moscow on Sunday.

Several other people are reported to have been detained by the police in Marseilles in connection with the Trakov affair.

This espionage affair has broken out amid signs of a distinct cooling of relations between France and Russia caused by the Soviet intervention.

Strikers secure release of Greenpeace boat

By David Nicholson-Lord

A protest strike by 3,000 local trade unionists led to the release from Cherbourg yesterday of a boat belonging to Greenpeace, the international ecology group.

It had been impounded by the authorities and its captain was arrested.

The demonstration by trade unionists followed angry scenes in the harbour early yesterday morning as local anti-nuclear protesters joined with the crew of the Rainbow Warrior in unsuccessful attempts to stop the unloading of a cargo of spent Japanese nuclear fuel.

It was destined for the French reprocessing plant at de la Hague, the fuel being carried in the British Nuclear Fuels vessel Pacific Swan.

Police widow kills herself

Nice, Feb 14.—The wife of a French policeman who was accidentally killed by other policemen on Tuesday, shot their son Nicolas, aged five, and then shot herself with her husband's service pistol early today, police said.

She was despondent after being told that her husband, M Philippe Maziz, aged 25, was shot in the head by mistake by four members of the anti-gang

squad, who, like M Maziz, were closing in on the villa where M Pitoun, a Riviera businessman, had been held by kidnappers.

M Maziz committed suicide after killing his only child over the past weeks "our efforts and our activities have become particularly delicate and intense. Recently there have been some positive signs, although experience has taught us to guard against excessive optimism".

The President confirmed that he and his colleagues had been discussing the sending of a commission of inquiry sponsored by the United Nations to Iran.

"We would support steps by the United Nations that would lead to the release of the hostages", he said, "if the steps are consistent with our goals and our essential international principles. An appropriate commission with a carefully defined purpose would be a step towards resolution of this crisis".

An international investigation into the behaviour of the exiled Shah has been made by the demands made by the Iranian authorities in exchange for the safe return of the 50 hostages at the embassy. But President Carter made no mention last night of some of the other demands such as the return of the Shah's wealth from the United States or an acknowledgement that the United States should not have supported his regime.

Mr Carter was offered a golden opportunity for self-flagellation had he desired to take it up. Asked whether he thought it had been proper for the United States to restore the Shah to his throne in 1953, Mr Carter said he "would seriously consider" giving such aid if it were requested. Nevertheless, Yugoslavia was a "strong, fiercely independent, courageous, well-equipped nation" that could probably defend itself.

On his request for an American boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow, Mr Carter said it would be "unconscionable" for any nation to send athletes to the capital of a country which was "actively involved in the invasion and subjugation of innocent people".

On his proposal to begin the registration of potential military conscripts, the President said he thought there had been "gross over-reaction" to the idea: "The best way to prevent having a draft in the future and mobilization of our nation's efforts . . . is to be prepared."

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OVERSEAS

Iran minister says inquiry into Shah being set up

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Feb 14

Although the French Government remains opposed to economic sanctions, on the ground that they are both ineffective and counter-productive, it has made it clear repeatedly in the past couple of weeks that there can be no restoration of a positive climate of détente, and of the cooperation that goes with it, so long as Moscow does not withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

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OVERSEAS

Turkish troops seize Izmir factory after battle with workers

Ankara, Feb. 14.—Turkish troops using armoured cars stormed a state cotton-yarn factory in the western town of Izmir today and evicted about 1,000 protesting left-wing workers after a gun battle, eye witnesses reported.

One policeman was wounded as police and hundreds of the 10,000 soldiers on the scene, supported by tanks and helicopters, rushed into the factory, scene of almost daily violence for the last few weeks.

As troops fought in other Turkish towns with leftist workers and students in sympathy with the Izmir workers, the Cabinet of Mr Suleiman Demirel, after a routine meeting, called on the nation not to panic.

The troops carrying assault rifles stormed the factory after the workers ignored an ultimatum to come out. As tanks stood by and troops surrounded the plant, armoured cars burst through the doors and the soldiers ran in.

After an exchange of fire, the workers were apparently armed with pistols—the workers surrendered and came out with their hands up, witnesses said. Some were taken to a sports stadium and detained, they added.

A general strike in Izmir, an Aegean resort city, continued tonight. Municipal workers were apparently striking in support of the cotton-yarn factory workers while other businesses stayed closed because of the violence.

The workers occupied the factory to protest against large-scale dismissals of left-leaning workers after the change from

Mr Vance criticizes Israeli plan for Hebron

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb. 14

The Israeli Government has been strongly criticized by the United States' Secretary of State, Mr Cyrus Vance, over its decision to approve the principle of Jewish settlement in the centre of Hebron, the second largest Arab town in the occupied West Bank.

Heavily armed gendarmes clashed with leftist workers and students in the eastern town of Tunceli, according to the semi-official Anatolian news agency. One person died and three were wounded, two seriously, it said.

The agency quoted the Tunceli provincial governor as saying: "The town looks as though there's a war going on."

Farther east, in Kars, near the Soviet border, leftists

bombed several banks but no casualties were reported.

In Istanbul, residents said many shops stayed shut today after an unknown group threatened shopkeepers with violence if they did not close to protest against Mr Demirel's recent economic measures including big price rise increases.

Police said tonight that 300 people had been detained.

Mr Buseit Ecevit, Turkish

Opposition leader and former Prime Minister, accused the Government of carrying out "the worst repression the world

has seen since the regime of Idi Amin in Uganda". In an uncharacteristically strong statement, Mr Ecevit said he was more concerned about the political situation now than he had been before the last military coup in 1971.

He said Mr Demirel had "blown up all the possible bridges" between their two parties.—Reuter.

Liberal reforms likely in the post-Tito era

Continued from page 1

sis is to be kept even more strongly on independence and on safeguarding Yugoslavia against outside threats and internally the reformist liberalizing course is to continue.

In fact the collective leadership of 33 men has been assuming increasing responsibilities over the past few years as President Tito left more and more of the day-to-day business to the men he chose to secure the continuity of his life work.

Since he entered hospital three weeks ago the leadership took full charge of Yugoslavia's affairs. The responsibility is divided between the party and the state along regional lines.

Mr Lazar Kolisevski, the Vice-President of the state Presidency, will become the titular head of state for the remainder of his one-year term which expires in May. The presiding member of the party Praesidium will take over the chairmanship until October when his term of office expires and another member of the Praesidium takes over.

The state Presidency together with the party Praesidium represent the intricate system of succession envisaged as a safeguard against any one person climbing to the top. The system has already been functioning for nine years.

But the man who matters most is Dr Vladimir Bakaric, the urbane 67-year-old lawyer from Croatia who has been a close friend and aide of President Tito for more than 40 years. He is the last survivor of what was once a tightly-knit innermost circle of young Communists revolutionaries with whom President Tito started in 1938.

He is not likely to make a claim for power but he is very much the man behind the scenes. His voice is bound to prevail in the future and in situations where the regionally represented leadership may

Leftists vacate embassy in San Salvador

San Salvador, Feb. 14.—Leftist militants vacated the Panamanian Embassy here today and freed their three hostages, including the Ambassador, Senator David Peres Ramos, police said.

Members of the Popular League on February 28 seized the embassy yesterday to back the demands of their comrades occupying the Spanish Embassy for the release of several detainees.

The militants also occupied the Panamanian Embassy last month, but left three days later when El Salvador's ruling junta accepted its demands for the release of seven detainees.

Leftist guerrillas and security forces today clashed in Zacatecoluca, 40 miles from San Salvador, but the guerrillas fled. The oil had been unloaded at Durban.—Reuter.

Kampuchea 'faces famine threat'

Singapore, Feb. 14.—Food supplies in Kampuchea will run out by the end of next month and the war-ravaged country will then be entirely dependent on food from the outside world, a British aid worker said here today.

Mr Geoffrey Busby, a representative of Oxfam, said at least one million tonnes of food must be shipped into Kampuchea before the next harvest in October in order to prevent a disaster.

More than three million people, mainly in rural areas, would face starvation if the food failed to reach them in time, Mr Busby said.

"The present food supplies will last till the end of March. Thereafter the country will be

reached as all decisions must be passed by agreement.

During the three weeks of President Tito's illness, the leadership has shown a high degree of unity and has indicated the way for Yugoslavia in the post-Tito era.

On foreign policy Mr Milos Minic, a Serb who is Yugoslavia's chief foreign policy strategist, has stated clearly that Yugoslavia will tolerate no pressure or interference and that it intends to pursue its independent, non-aligned course. Yugoslavia has taken a strong line on the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan.

The other message the leadership has conveyed in recent weeks is that liberalizing reforms will be resumed, perhaps even more forcefully than hitherto.

At a meeting last week the speakers, including many members of the highest party offices, spoke in favour of Mr Edward Girek's ideas of "pluralism of interest". There seems to be no doubt that once the present critical period is over the leadership intends to push ahead with liberalizing reforms within the party, which have been long overdue.

During a meeting yesterday of the 33 members of the Defence Council, it was said that general defence preparedness was satisfactory but that further measures must be taken.

The council was preparing contingency plans and the Army has been put in a state of increased vigilance. According to reports some reservists have been called up.

Strict security precautions have been taken while the nation awaits news of what now seems to be the last days of an era marked by President Tito's living personality. The bulletin today leaves little doubt that President Tito's condition is critical and that the nation should be prepared for the worst.

Algeria to give

Seychelles aid in education

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Feb. 14

The Seychelles is developing relations with other socialist governments in the African region. Mr Jacques Hodoul, Foreign Minister of the Indian Ocean island group, who has returned from visits to Libya and Algeria, announced that 12 Algerian advisers are to be sent to the islands to help with an education programme.

Guinea has agreed to send 10 advisers to the Seychelles for two years, also to assist with education, and East Germany has sent almost a ton of drugs.

The first equipment for oil test drilling in Seychelles waters has arrived. A consortium of American oil companies is to start drilling in an area of about 8,400 square miles.

The Russians have published their version of the Shostakovich memoirs. It quotes the composer praising the artistic and spiritual freedom in the Soviet Union.

The book, though not yet on sale, comes three months after the memoirs published in the United States, which were bitterly denounced here as a forgery.

Tass said the book "Shostakovich, His Life and Times", had been painstakingly compiled over many years by Soviet musicologists and journalists, with the help of Shostakovich's family. It was a "strictly documented" collection of speeches, notes, talks and interviews spanning almost 50 years of the composer's life up to his death in 1975.

The newsagency clearly hoped to show that the book was not simply a hasty reply to the book edited by Mr Solomon Volkov, an emigrant now living in New York. The composer's son, Maxim, said the Volkov memoir, which depicts Shostakovich as an embittered man who resented the authorities' restrictions on his work, was a compilation of rumours and anecdotes.

According to Tass, Shostakovich expressed strong support for the Soviet regime. "Soviet musicians highly value the spiritual freedom won for their creativity by the working people," the composer is quoted as saying.

Tanker had no oil when it sank

Dakar, Feb. 14.—A Senegalese Government inquiry has concluded that the oil tanker Salam was not carrying its listed cargo of 153,132 tonnes of crude oil when it sank off the coast of Senegal last month.

The finding was announced by the Merchant Marine Authority, which has been investigating the sinking. The Salam went down on January 17 after being rocked by explosions. In Liberia, where the ship was registered, officials are convinced that the oil had been unloaded at Durban.—Reuter.

Repair, making it difficult to speed up food deliveries to the countryside.

"A great deal of organization and careful logistical plans will have to be worked out to make sure that big quantities of food are properly landed and distributed. Certain areas in the country are no-go areas as far as the Phnom Penh Government of Heng Samrin is concerned. They are Pol Pot areas, where people tell us fighting is still going on," he added.

Mr Busby said relief convoys were usually provided with token Kampuchean military escorts. "Some aid workers, carrying medical supplies, move without any escort at all. We have never been harassed by Pol

forces."—Reuter.



Jubilant girls after finishing their basic training in the Israeli Army.

Catholics win struggle for Jasna Gora shrine

From John Darton
Warsaw, Feb. 12

The Roman Catholic Church has won what is to be called the "battle of Jasna Gora," the most significant church-state confrontation since the visit to Poland by the Pope last June.

The controversy is a case study in how local disputes get out of hand and have national repercussions when the two paramount institutions in Polish life—the church and the Communist Party—come to loggerheads.

It centered upon the expansion of a bumpy strip of road at the foot of the famous Paulite monastery in Czestochowa, the holies shrine of Polish Catholics.

The church claimed that a 32ft-wide underground passageway being constructed for pedestrians under the expanded road was too narrow to accommodate the throngs of pilgrims. It suggested that the construction project was a plot by the local authorities to restrict access to the hilltop monastery, where the revered painting of the Black Madonna has drawn worshippers for 598 years.

The authorities, both in the provincial government and at the Office for Religious Affairs in Warsaw, said the project was simply designed to ease traffic congestion and make perilous crossing safe. Privately, officials said the church was overreacting.

Beginning in September, Mgr Stefan Bara, the bishop of Czestochowa, fired off tele-

grams and letters to 11 government agencies and ministries.

He read a series of letters to his congregation, alleging, among other things, that the construction project was intended to deflate the cult of the Madonna and ensure that the Pope, who often visited Jasna Gora when he was a cardinal in Cracow, near by, and who preached to over a million faithful during several masses there last June, would not return for the 600th anniversary of the monastery's founding in 1982.

He ordered that the church's mighty bell should toll for 10 minutes three times a day in protest.

Cardinal Wyszyński, the head of a church adhered to by more than 90 per cent of Poland's 35 million people, responded with outrage. He called the project an act of barbarism.

High-level church sources confirmed that the Pope himself became involved.

Last Friday, the Polish Government announced a statement issued by the Polish news agency Pap, reported that the dispute had been resolved. It said that under an agreement reached by a commission of church and state representatives, the authorities would abandon the tunnel underpass, close the cross street during pilgrimages and install a traffic light there.

Despite the compromise, feelings run high on both sides.

Government officials insist that the agreement was reached as far back as January 7 and accuse the church of drumming up a needless controversy.—New York Times News Service.

Absence of Polish Premier puts his future in doubt

Warsaw, Feb. 14.—The political future of the country made by Mr Edward Girek, the party secretary, and other congress delegates earlier this week. His position seemed shaky during discussions and meetings yesterday.

It appeared that Mr Jaroszewicz would no longer be part of the Politburo and would be content to take care of business only until legislative elections on March 25. His health has been officially cited as the reason for his departure.

Mr Jaroszewicz's political fate was preceded by ambiguous statements on the governing of the country made by Mr Edward Girek, the party secretary, and other congress delegates earlier this week. His position seemed shaky during discussions and meetings yesterday.

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Agence France Presse.

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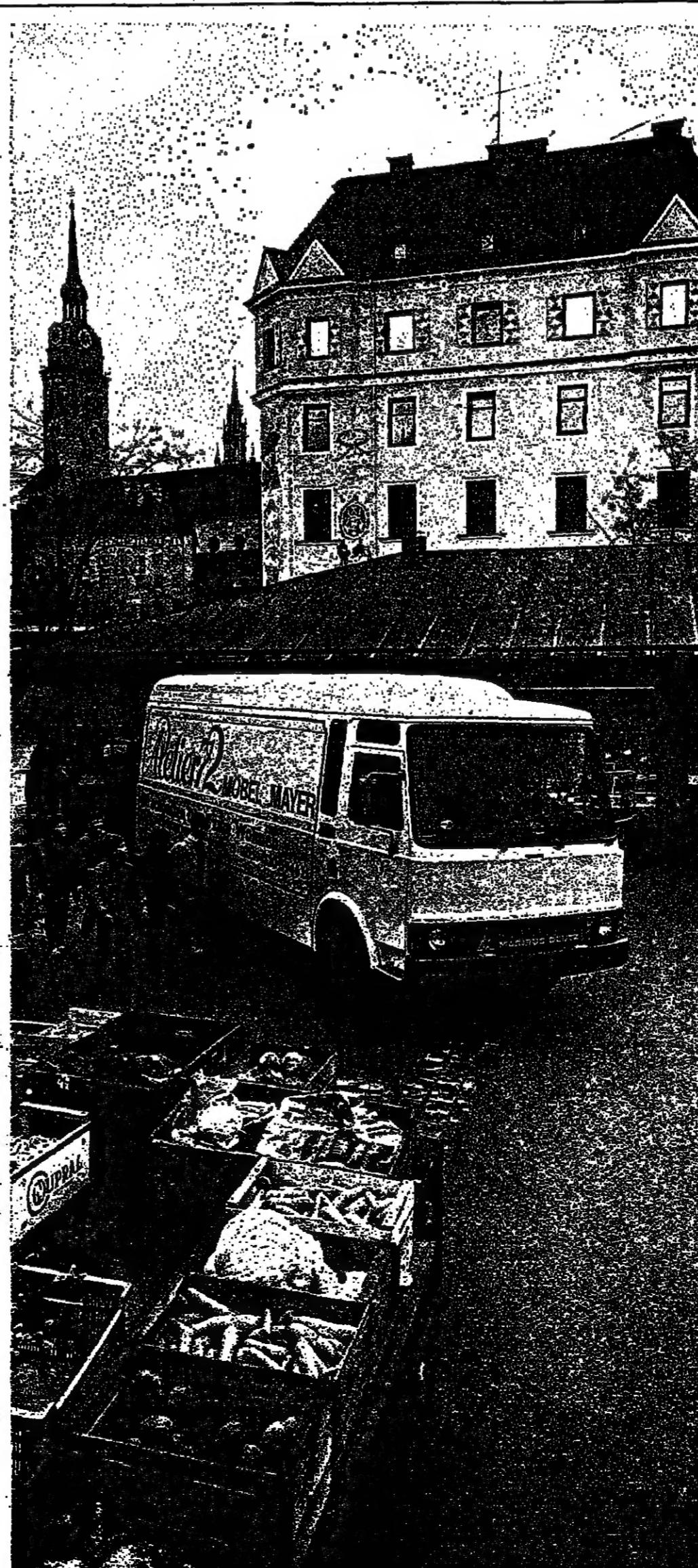
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OVERSEAS

Two Gandhi men win corruption case plea because Janata erred

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Feb 14

Bungling by the former Janata Government today helped Mrs Indira Gandhi's Minister of Works and her special assistant get off answering charges of corruption during the 1977 general election campaign. A Special Court judge found in favour of their appeal on a technicality.

The Special Courts were set up by the Desai Government to expedite cases against the previous Gandhi administration. But Judge M. S. Joshi today ruled such courts were illegal and had no jurisdiction in the so-called Jeeps case. The appeal was made by Mr P. C. Sheth, treasurer of the Congress Party at the 1977 elections but back in Mrs Gandhi's new Cabinet, and by Mr R. K. Dhawan, who has just been appointed the Prime Minister's special assistant.

They, together with two former ministers, were originally charged by the police in July, 1977, with putting pressure on well-known business firms that had enjoyed government contracts in the past, to "donate" more than 130 Indian-made Jeeps for the use of Mrs Gandhi and her Congress Party candidates in north India during the election campaign three years ago.

They were charged under India's Prevention of Corruption Act because the police alleged that no payment or hire fees was ever made for the Jeeps.

The judge today found that although the Law Ministry in

the Desai Government had established the Special Courts in May last year, it had done so without proper authority, for the particular order under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Act had only been gazetted last September and had no retrospective effect.

This is the second time a Special Court judge has voided his own jurisdiction.

On January 15, the judge in the second of the Special Courts created by the Janata Government said he had no right to hear a case in which four officials had been harassed during Mrs Gandhi's 1975-77 emergency for inquiries they made to answer a parliamentary question into the affairs of the Maruti car company of Mr Sanjay Gandhi, the Prime Minister's younger son.

The Jeeps case, which has now gone by default and the principal accused brought by Mrs Gandhi back into positions of power, had been the subject of an investigation by a magistrate who found there was a prima facie case of corruption he had to answer.

The Chief Minister of the Janata Government in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh today resigned after his party had been put in a minority in the state Legislative Assembly. One of Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party candidates in north India during the election campaign three years ago.

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The Brandt Commission's report

People in the poverty belts face food gap

The first of a series looking at some of the main topics analysed by the report of the Brandt Commission.

By Roger Berthoud

There are 29 "least developed countries" where the average annual income a head in 1977 was about \$150 (£65). Most of these poorest of the poor countries are in two "poverty belts". One extends across the middle of Africa, from the Sahara in the north to Lake Nyasa in the south. The other begins with the Yemens and Afghanistan and stretches across South-East Asia and some East Asian countries.

These belts include parts of countries not among the 29, like Kenya, Kampuchea, Burma, Vietnam and India. The Brandt Commission, which held one meeting in Mali, in the drought-stricken Sahel zone, wonders whether very poor parts of countries should be treated on a par with the poorest countries.

Some of the countries in the poverty belts have large populations. Like Bangladesh, others, like The Gambia, are small in population and area. Each has a slim margin between subsistence and disaster. They are afflicted by droughts, floods, soil erosion and creeping deserts. A flood can take away the topsoil for ever.

Agriculture provides 44 per cent of the poorest countries' gross domestic product and 83 per cent of employment. Projections indicate these countries will face a food gap between production and needs of at least 20 million tonnes by 1990, roughly a third of their consumption.

The gap has many causes, but the fundamental problem is the control and management of water, according to the Brandt report. Crops in the humid tropics of South Asia are damaged by monsoon floods, and yields in all humid tropical areas are limited, *inter alia*, by disease, root-zone saturation and the loss of soil nutrients.

In the poorest African countries, and notably in the Sahel zone and in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Tanzania, much of the farming is in semi-arid tropics, where "evapo-transpiration" is high and rainfall can vary by 40 per cent from year to year.

Irrigation, with proper drainage, gives greater yields, more choice of crops, more intensive farming, and contributes to hydro-power. Many big schemes have been studied, for example, for the river basins of Senegal, Niger, Volta, Lake Chad, Brahmaputra-Ganges, the Himalayan watershed and the Mekong. But to exploit them would cost at least \$50,000m (£21,000m) over 15 to 20 years, it is estimated. Much research is needed also

in new varieties of crops which can flourish in areas with unpredictable rainfall and in semi-arid zones. Systems of tenure and organization are needed which give people a secure stake in the land, where enough is available.

Human energy and innovation, the report notes, depend on good health. Yet most people in the poverty belts suffer from long-standing malnutrition and from parasitic diseases. Some diseases, like river blindness and sleeping sickness, prevent the farming of rich land. And the breeding of livestock, and reduce productivity.

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SPORT

Olympic Games



Nikolai Zamyatov put the Nordic skiing half of the world on red alert as he blazed the gold trail in the cross-country...

A new Russian follows an old Russian trail

Lake Placid, Feb 14.—Nikolai Zamyatov, of the Soviet Union, today won the men's 30 kilometres cross-country ski race to take the first gold medal of the 1980 Winter Olympic Games. A student, aged 24, he finished the course in 1hr 27min 2.8sec to win by 31.42sec from Vasili Rochev, also of the Soviet Union.

Ivanov, 20, earned Bulgaria their first medal of any Winter Olympics with a surprising third place in 1hr 30min 3.87sec. Thomas Wassberg, of Sweden, was fourth in 1hr 30min 40.33sec.

The Soviet Union was a repeat of the 1976 Olympics at Innsbruck, where Sergei Savoyev triumphed in 1hr 30min 29sec. Savoyev was in the Soviet contingent sent here this year but was dropped from the four-man team selected to race today.

The strong showing by Zamyatov and Rochev showed that the Soviet Union would probably dominate the Nordic events again.

Stock soars to hit a new Alpine peak



From John Hennessy
Lake Placid, Feb 14

Austria are not so much dominating the world in men's downhill skiing as humiliating it. In spite of leaving out of their team Franz Klammer, the Olympic champion, Josef Walcher, they still provided the first two home in the first of the six Olympic Alpine events here today.

As if that were not enough for the rest to swallow, the winner was Leonhard Stock, who on his arrival here was regarded as the downhill reserve. Presumably by now all bitterness is forgotten, but the confusion caused by mastering the course so easily and convincingly in practice led to a blinding row among the Austrians in public yesterday and the elimination of Walcher.

Nor was that all. The second place was taken by Stock's compatriot Peter Wirsberger, who like Stock in red and white longitudinal stripes so that they looked like some form of Colorado beetle

strayed in from the west. Wirsberger's time was 1min 46.12sec, 0.62sec (a stretchy margin in this event) behind Stock and exactly half a second in front of the leading Canadian, Steve Poiborski.

Stock was surrounded by plaudits of delight, congratulation after his victory. He had not realized what he had achieved as he fell into the arms of the Austrian coach, Udo Albl. "It's great," Stock said. "But I am still too moved to appreciate the full significance of this title. I am sorry that Franz Klammer was not here, but I am very proud to be his successor. I had a faultless run."

The course was perfect. The snow held well under my skis and the pole visibility did not bother me," was later to show.

Wirsberger lost his chance at the top, which called for giant slalom technique rather than that appropriate to a downhill. He hung a milestone of 1.21sec around his belt, and held the "duster" to within 10th of a second on the second section, but he had not the strength to sustain his challenge on the long slush leading to the finish. Running well on the straight, Stock drew farther and farther away, as the timing apparatus was later to show.

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It is the first time that a Russian has been so well placed and, with the East Europeans beginning to make a challenge in Alpine events, we may see further Russians in view.

Olympic splits: A dozen people narrowly escaped injury when the open truck body of the Snow-cat in which they were travelling up Whiteface Mountain to the men's downhill race collapsed, spilling them on to a steep snow-covered slope. About 15 people were thrown out in a tangled mass when one of the sides of the Snow-cat gave under the pressure of bodies.

They missed the heavy caterpillar tracks which drive the Snow-cats. Tens of thousands of people swarmed over the mountain slopes to see the Games' premier event, leaving long queues for the single skiers to tramp up the steep

sides of the mountain.

Whether Bartelski is satisfied or not with himself, he has restored his reputation in British eyes.

Fifteenth in the world championships six years ago at the age of 20, he was thought to have a glowing future. He has been many times since then, but his defection for two years to the Dutch, under a residential qualifica-

tion, has been a disaster.

Even if the uninitiated will not



... and Leonhard Stock sounded a similar warning for the other Alpine half as he caught the glint in the downhill...

men's downhill. 1. Leonhard Stock (Austria) 1min 45.50sec. 2. P. Wirsberger (Austria) 1min 46.12sec. 3. S. Poiborski (Canada) 1min 46.71sec. 4. M. Mueller (Switzerland) 1min 46.78sec. 5. P. Bartelski (Netherlands) 1min 47.12sec. 6. H. Wirsberger (Austria) 1min 47.70sec. 7. D. Poiborski (Canada) 1min 48.13sec. 8. J. Walcher (Austria) 1min 48.14sec. 9. D. Poiborski (Canada) 1min 48.15sec. 10. D. Poiborski (Canada) 1min 48.16sec. 11. S. Blasberg (USA) 1min 48.17sec. 12. P. Bartelski (Netherlands) 1min 48.18sec. 13. A. Stewart (USA) 1min 48.19sec.

US for Moscow?

Lake Placid, Feb 14.—The United States National Olympic Committee may soon announce that American Olympic athletes will not be sent to the Moscow games if no ticket is given to Moscow. This would mean that the USOC have decided to accept the invitation to the summer Games.

The USOC officials are a repeat of the 1976 Olympics at Innsbruck, where Sergei Savoyev triumphed in 1hr 30min 29sec. Savoyev was in the Soviet contingent sent here this year but was dropped from the four-man team selected to race today.

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PARLIAMENT, February 14, 1980

Making unions pay for strikes: plan proceeds to link union funds with social security benefits

House of Commons

Government plans for deeming certain amounts to be paid from trade union funds against supplementary benefit were going ahead, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at question time. She added that she hoped to be able to make an announcement soon.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Scunthorpe, C) had asked if she had noted that the ISTC had assets of around £15m and as yet had paid no strike pay.

It is not time (he went on) for the unions rather than the tax-payers to accept responsibility for the hardship they inflict upon their members, many of whom are or strike against their wishes?

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C)—I totally agree. A number of unions do pay strike pay and are paying it during the strike, but not the ISTC which has a large amount of money in investments.

We said in our manifesto that we would deem certain amounts to be paid from union funds to be set against supplementary benefit. Those plans are going ahead and I hope to be in a position to make an announcement soon.

Exchanges on the strike dispute and picketing in Sheffield began when Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Bromley, Orpington, C) asked: Has the Prime Minister seen reports of a number of so-called pickets in violent disturbances outside Hadfields this morning?

They were led by a notorious communist (Labour protest)—with no connection with the dispute whose true purpose was to create a revolutionary situation? (Labour cheers.) Do we need an alteration in the law to control a situation like that?

Mrs Thatcher—There are two aspects. The civil law is being changed. I believe in Section 14 of the Employment Bill, and I hope we will see a solution of that

problem in that people in future may lawfully picket at or near their place of work and an injunction could be taken against any not within that category.

On criminal law, I wholly agree with its implication, that the law is there and that numbers are both intimidating and obstructive. (Loud Conservative cheers.) The presence is meant to intimidate.

But I also agree that it is difficult at present to enforce that effectively.

Mr James Hamilton (Bothwell, Lab)—Will the Prime Minister reflect on the reasons for the hostile picketing in the steel industry?

Will the Government grasp the nettle and become actively involved in this dispute?

Mrs Thatcher—There is a right

peacefully to picket. That does not seem to viewers to be the right of

picketing that is being exercised outside Hadfields at the present time. Those who undertake picketing in other ways are great

trouble to the rest of the public who prefer to see these things better done.

The unions and management would prefer to get together to sort this out themselves.

Mr John Blackburn (Dudley, West, C)—Would the Prime Minister convey to the chief officer of police at the Hadfields works at Sheffield or support the reinstatement of those officers who have been seriously injured in the lawlessness that has taken place. (Conservative cheers.)

Would she re-confirm the basic and moral right of workers not to be compelled to picket at work and to work? (Renewed Conservative cheers and Labour laughter.)

Mr George Faulkes (South Ayrshire, Lab)—Which aspects of her economic and industrial policies have been most successful so far? (More Labour laughter.)

Mrs Thatcher—Practically nearly all. (Further Conservative cheers and loud Labour laughter.)

New transmitters for broadcasts to Russia

House of Lords

The Government was not satisfied with the strength of the BBC transmitters used for the Russian language service and was providing £5.3m in the next two years to improve the audibility of external broadcasts, Lord Trefgarne, Lord-in-Waiting, said during questions.

Lord Cheilwood (C) had asked if the Government was satisfied with the strength of these transmitters. Lord Trefgarne (The Government was not satisfied with the strength of the BBC transmitters used for the Russian language service and for this reason have made financial provision for a capital programme to improve the audibility of the BBC's external broadcasts which is now under way.)

The audibility power of the BBC transmitters varies between 70 kilowatts (kW) and 25 kW. The Voice of America operates at 250kW and Radio Liberty varies between 50 and 250kW. West Germany and France operate at 300kW, Italy at 100kW, and Spain at 350kW.

According to the BBC, their Russian service is normally audible in the Moscow, Kiev, and Leningrad areas, but the quality of reception varies according to the time of day, time of year and ionospheric conditions.

Lord Cheilwood—That is encouraging.

Lord Trefgarne—We must do what we can within the limits of our resources. The new transmitters are unlikely to be in service, even with the expenditure I have referred to, until 1983.

Expansion of Stansted only way to meet demand

The policy of encouraging the full use of regional airports and the provision of additional capacity at the existing airports in the south-east was the most sensible approach, Lord Trefgarne, a Lord in Waiting, said in opening a debate on the Government's air policy.

He said that given the inherent uncertainty of passenger forecasts, the Government solution was one which met demand as it developed and avoided massive commitments which could become unnecessary.

The provision of a new terminal building at Stansted capable of handling 20 million passengers a year was the best way of providing additional capacity before the end of the decade. The British Airports Authority would be seeking planning permission for this sum and compulsory purchase orders would be submitted at about the same time.

Lord Pownsey of Shulbrede (Lab) for the Opposition, said that the Government's broad strategy was correct but it must be kept flexible

and the country's prime wheat growing region.

Lord Trefgarne—That is encouraging.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said that it was crucial to provide facilities which could prevent Stansted in particular from becoming the sort of by-word which Kennedy airport had become—an airport which people would go to great expense not to pass through.

Lady Burton of Coventry (Lab) said that congestion at Heathrow was a nightmare and a disincentive to tourists. The addition of a fourth terminal would need to be rethought if the burden was not to become intolerable.

Lord Parry (Lab) said that it is the United States private charter flights used service establishments for civil purposes.

Lord Attlee (C) said he viewed the proposals for Stansted with utter dismay. The area involved was the country's prime wheat growing region.

Decisive action must be taken by the Government to end the running sore in Northern Ireland which had cost more than 2,000 lives and £100m of injuries and millions of pounds in destroyed property. Lord Dunleath said when opening a debate on the security situation in the Province.

The absolute right of silence on the part of the suspect should be abolished, he said, and consideration should be given to drawing up not a new political border, but a new security line and mining it so as to reduce access points to a small number.

An extradition treaty should be agreed with the Republic of Ire-

land and a joint security committee set up for liaison between ministers and commanders of security forces on both sides of the border.

Lord Mayo said: Intervention was not an answer. It was a popular thing to shout about but it would undoubtedly lead to more violence and rioting. Capital punishment was not a solution.

Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that although there had not been a further meeting since last October, the momentum established in the talks had not been lost and the security forces on either side of the border had improved.

House adjourned 10.37 pm.

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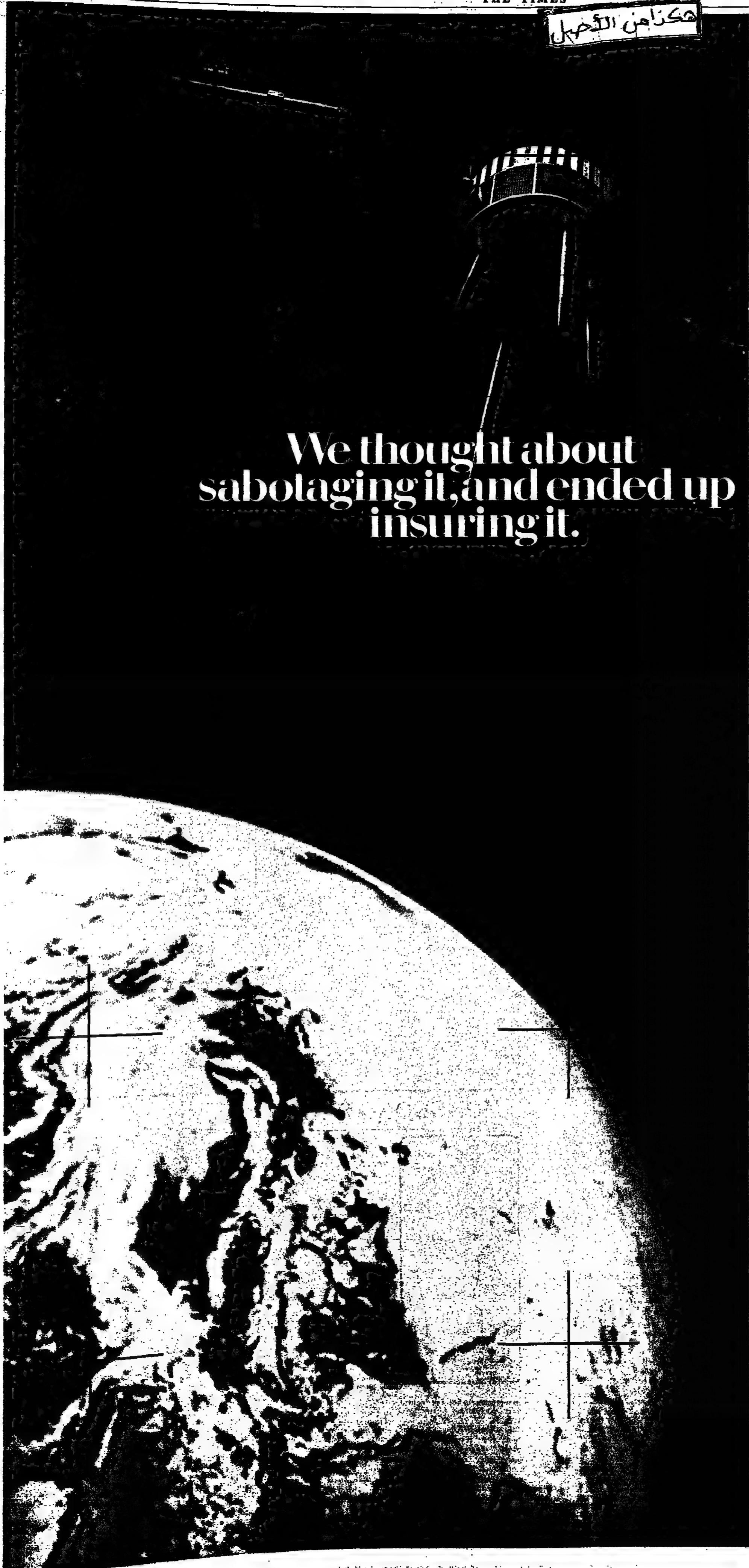
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We thought about
sabotaging it, and ended up
insuring it.

The day British Aerospace asked us to insure two satellites being transported around Europe, one thought immediately crossed our mind.

Namely, that a satellite could very well disappear into thin air long before it reached the upper atmosphere.

(Just recently, we heard of a case of a NATO missile that vanished without trace for 24 hours somewhere in West Germany.)

Bearing this in mind, our Marine Department (the people who specialize in freight and cargo insurance), didn't just make it their business to insure the two satellites.

When they discovered that their combined value was in the region of £14 million, they even offered to help with the security arrangements.

First, they arranged with Securicor for overnight security for the satellite convoy in London. Then, the same again with the Harbour Police in Dover.

Once on the continent, they fixed direct radio contact with both the Dutch and German police, for which a special wavelength had to be opened.

Finally, police escorts were also set up to accompany the convoy through all the larger cities and provide an armed guard during overnight stops.

As a result of all these precautions, we're happy to say that both satellites were ferried from European test centre to European test centre without a hitch.

Of course such a massive security exercise would have tested the capabilities of even the most efficient insurance company.

And the fact that we came through with flying colours does seem to prove that we have more fingers on more buttons than most.

However, on a more down to earth level, the moral of our story isn't necessarily that we're experts at insuring the safe transportation of space satellites.

Or even that we're experts at all types of commercial and industrial insurance.

It's quite simply that, whatever your insurance problems, you can be sure of one thing.

At Commercial Union, we'll move heaven and earth to overcome them for you.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.



The strong case for bringing the Tories and the TUC closer together

The alert is over for the moment; the troops are being stood down for a few days. Now that the 1972 Committee has been pacified, and the parliamentary draughtsmen set to work on designing immunities, it seems a good moment to look at the implications of last week's events in the light of the Conservative Party's pre-election promises and rather longer historical trends.

Ministers have learned very quickly the truth of Lord Hailsham's comment (in the 1976 Dimbleby lecture): "The actual situation with which a new Government is confronted is often vastly different from what it was imagined to be in opposition... but it is here that the doctrine of mandate takes over. However small the majority, however ill-advised the promises, however controversial the programme, the party activists insistently demand the redemption of all the pledges ceded on by the various pressure groups whose collective support has been won by the making of the pledges."

Spurred by the unpreceded evolution of the steel strike and by the equally unpredicted behaviour of the Law Lords, opinion in the Cabinet appears to have diverged not just on personalities but on fundamental issues about industrial policies and the balance of ideas in the Conservative Party.

The fact that the alert is over says no more than the Government will not try to legislate in a hurry and thus risk exposing itself as panicky and unsure, which appeared certain only seven weeks ago. It does not indicate that it will prematurely dismiss the deep desire for association with the state which the TUC continues to show by indirect means. And they have not yet, unwillingly, invited unrepresentative organisations by which they would certainly be judged at the next election.

There will be a benefit only if it leads to a proper discussion of the main question: the apparent failure of our political system to provide the multiplicity of interchange which, even in the 1950s—that lost golden age allowed Britain to appear as a mature, plural democracy where compromise between powerful groups retained a creative element.

There is a real danger of arousing a class conflict in Britain on a scale unknown since the aftermath of the First World War. On the one hand

there is the humane, sceptical Toryism which has characterized Conservative leaders from Disraeli onwards, which never underestimate the moral and political challenge set up by its opponents, and which understands the deep linkages of identity and self-interest beneath surface conflict in Parliament and industry, binding trade unions and employers to the pluralistic state (which I have, elsewhere, called "Corporate bias"). On the other hand, there is the contemporary tendency which is more obviously "right wing" than in any leadership, since at least the days of Bonar Law.

The latter may be rational, indeed reasonable, but at the level of human understanding it too often betrays a narrow-minded class bias rooted in the most myopic and threatened sector of society, anti-parochial to post-war change, insensible to the values by which a large part of the nation lives. De-indexing unemployment benefit, for instance, however "logical" will be depicted and felt as an attack on the most deprived area.

It is worth recalling what Baldwin said on a similar occasion in 1925: "We believe in the justice of the Bill—but we are not going to push our political advantage home at a moment like this... we stand for peace, for the removal of suspicion in the country. We want to create an atmosphere... in which the people can come together."

It is almost uncanny that Disraeli foresaw what might happen in 1980. In a progressive country, change is constant, and the great question is not whether you should resist change which is inevitable, but whether that change should be carried out in deference to the manners, customs, laws and traditions of a people, or whether it should be carried out in deference to abstract principle and arbitrary and general doctrines. The one is a national system, the other a philosophical system. I have always considered that the Tory Party was the national party of England. It is not formed of a combination of oligarch and philosophers who practise on the sectarian prejudices of a portion of the people."

Clashed between personalities reflect much older antagonisms. Before 1914 Sir H. Llewellyn Smith argued that to create a Ministry of Labour would import into central government

Ernest Bevin set up a seven-a-side consultative council which worked through the war



the decisions between capital and labour, since it would attract the affinity of trade unions seeking to counteract the natural affinity of bankers with the Treasury and of industrialists with the Board of Trade. These divisions exist today between civil servants as much as ministers. But what generates a different sort of trouble is that the Prime Minister is no longer a habitual broker between the two sides but appears firmly allied to the Treasury and the Department of Industry.

It is possible that a breathing space will allow the Cabinet to think again about the deep commitment of men like Mr Len Murray or Sir John Marsham to interdependence, and about the threat posed to them as much as to government by centrifugal forces whether from the small business lobby or militant shop stewards?

There could be no sharper

contrast than that between the judicious cool language of TUC leaders who are used to dealing with government and an ill-considered baying for "victory" which ignores essential facts about the trade union movement.

Profound structural changes in the size and composition of trade unions in the 1970s explains the TUC's recent low-key leadership and its often messy, inarticulate behaviour.

It has, however, always operated best when on the defensive. Though it lost the battle during the General Strike in 1926 it won the war against fascism in Germany and Sweden; it is fair to claim that such duties include representation of important sections of opinion during the process of economic and industrial planning. All views are not, of course, equally valid but all points of view are valuable in a democracy sustained by consent.

This is not to pre-judge the new Employment Bill in whatever form, but rather to point out that in the interest of national harmony it would not be inappropriate to take up Mr Callaghan's advice about "consultation". One of the most carefully judged pieces of legislation passed by the Conservative Government, the Public Order Act 1936 which effectively castrated the British Fascists, succeeded in the tricky field of civil liberties because it was issued after wide discussion and was operated on a basis of trust and inter-party consent.

The TUC and CBI could be given greater access to basic information, such as the Treasury forecasting models or whatever other material informs economic decisions. Such moves require a proper forum. Ideas of an "industrial parliament" suggests corporatism and the subordination of Parliament, but the seven-a-side joint consultative councils under Ernest Bevin which worked after 1940 through the war accomplished an enormous amount.

The National Economic Development Council—now a pale shadow—could if re-constituted recapture some of that lost consensus.

Is the time right now? Most doom-watchers are discussing the size and design of the last ditch, not the trench from which further advance will be possible; but it will be tragic if a government with a sufficient majority lapses into frantic fire-fighting like its predecessors.

Keith Middlemas

The author is Reader in Modern History at the University of Sussex and author of *Politics in Industrial Society*, published by Andrew Deutsch, £14.95.

Daring men in their yellow flying machines

A unit of the Royal Air Force, whose members have won more than 100 decorations for personal gallantry in peacetime, celebrates a silver jubilee today.

Callipers is, however, perhaps the wrong word to use because the unit is No. 22 squadron, part of the nation's helicopter rescue organization. It cannot hold anything approaching the RAF's usual idea of a party to mark the 25th anniversary of the year in 1955 when it was re-formed (after earlier disbandment) in the search and rescue role and equipped with some of the earliest of the now-familiar yellow helicopters which fly around the coasts and among the mountains for the most part assisting civilians who are in some sort of dire trouble.

One of the reasons militating

against a civilian party is the No. 22's five constituents between them spread out between Wiltshire and Devonshire. The other is that at any given time two-thirds of its airmen members are either on temporary or 60-minute notice to fly, and therefore may not (and do not want to) drink alcohol.

The present commanding officer, Squadron Leader Paddy Hayes, says, therefore, that the occasion will have to be marked in a rather muted manner.

Number 22 squadron was in fact the second RAF unit to be given the helicopter rescue role in the United Kingdom. Another squadron, No. 275, was formed in April 1955, but for obscure reasons twice changed its title, first to 228 squadron, then to 202 squadron.

Number 22 squadron was re-formed at Thorpe Island near Portsmouth under command of Squadron Leader Paul Bowry in 1955. Its "C" flight was formed at Valley, Anglesey in October of the same year and has stayed there ever since. Because its location on one of the biggest training bases in the air force is surrounded by sea and mountains this flight nearly always comes top in the annual league tables of lives saved, recording its 2,000th rescue in

rescue flights were equipped with single-engined Whirlwind helicopters including those which often operated in mountain terrain in extreme weather conditions and it is regarded as a mark of the service's dedication to the engine manufacturers (Pratt & Whitney) in the early days and Rolls-Royce after the change over to jets) and to the often unrecognized ground crews, that not one single accident involving injury ever occurred during a rescue operation.

Three of 22 squadron's flights—those at Leuchars, Manston and Valley now have twin-engined Wessex aircraft and the proportion of civilian to military rescues gradually rose to its present 90 per cent with both the RAF and the Navy having two "civilian" companies now providing an extensive service which the taxpayer gets at a bargain price partly because the two armed forces much prefer rescuing people to practising with domes and oil drums.

Statistics for 1979 are expected to show well over 1,000 civilians are indebted to helicopter crews either for their lives or at least for rapid extraction from uncomfortable or perilous circumstances.

No. 22's squadron's first civilian rescue took place on August 8, 1955, when a Mr Robert Read and his 10-year-old son David got into trouble in a small boat below the cliffs near Birling Gap in Sussex. A Whirlwind helicopter crew from Thorpe Island consisting of Flight Lieutenant Keith Panter (pilot), Flight Sergeant Grant Scaggs (navigator) and Aircraftman Williams (mechanic) descended to a car from an East Sussex police officer whose crew could see the pair's plight from the cliffs but could do little to help.

Aircraftman Williams, (in those days helicopter winchmen were not, as now, entitled to the minimum airmen rank of sergeant) was dropped into heavy surf on the end of a wire, waded ashore across the reef of rocks, and lifted father and son to safety.

The squadron put its grand total of rescues now at well over 5,000. It recorded 313 civilian and 16 military rescues last year by its flights now based at Leuchars (Fifeshire), Leconfield (Yorkshire), Manston (Kent), Chivenor (Devon) and Valley (Anglesey).

Until four years ago all RAF

rescue flights were equipped with single-engined Whirlwind helicopters including those which often operated in mountain terrain in extreme weather conditions and it is regarded as a mark of the service's dedication to the engine manufacturers (Pratt & Whitney) in the early days and Rolls-Royce after the change over to jets) and to the often unrecognized ground crews, that not one single accident involving injury ever occurred during a rescue operation.

The winning of more than 100 gallantry decorations by one squadron in war would have been regarded as "a godsend" in RAF slang. In peace-time it is doubtful if it has been equalled anywhere in the world. One of 22 squadron's youngest members, Master Air Loadmaster John Donnelly, now an instructor at Valley, has won the Air Force Medal twice.

The squadron badge which bears the motto in French, "Proux et Audacieux" (Gallant and Daring) was approved after 22 squadron had served in Malta during the Adriatic crisis of 1954 equipped with biplane Vickers Valentine bombers. The somewhat baffling centrepiece of a Maltese Cross surrounded by the mathematical pi-sign was devised because it was then under command of No. 1 Bomber Group and its pilots had a reputation for a certain amount of low-flying over the latter formation's headquarters.

As every schoolboy should know, pi is 22 over seven. The original motto seems to be as appropriate as ever, judging by the latest statistics.

John Chartres

The author's illustrated book *Helicopter Rescue* is due to be published by Ian Allen Ltd in the autumn.

The dangerous gap for Italy's Christian Democrats

This fourteenth national congress of Italy's perpetually governing Christian Democrats looks so bleak that a bright and influential member of the party confided how he would like to go to sleep today and wake up in five days time when it is due to be over.

This will be the fourth Christian Democrat congress which will start with an uncertain outlook, and the first of the four to have no central theme on which the opposing sides can do battle. The congress must try and find a new secretary because the present one, Signor Benigno Zaccagnini, is intent on leaving political life, the capital city, whose dreams of renewing the party, all behind him and go back to his home in Ravenna.

For a man who genuinely had little political ambition, he has

known heights of exhilaration and depths of gloomy pain that no other leader of this remarkable party has had to endure.

He won the secretaryship at the last congress, the happy surprise of his friends, though by a modest margin.

He became the symbol of the party's improvement with his honest face and remarkable appeal to the rank and file. His rise and fall, and the rise and fall of the party, were a friend to the party, Signor Aldo Moro. When terrorists kidnapped Signor Moro and held him prisoner for nearly two months before murdering him, Signor Zaccagnini lived through the experience which has left deep marks on his party, though having had to keep the party alive, it gave him the opportunity to negotiate with the terrorists while his own human instincts, as well as the pleadings of the

present Prime Minister, who has a similar outlook to that of Signor Zaccagnini—namely the Moro philosophy. He is a European, convinced of the need for friendship with the United States (where he had a personal success last month) and ready to seek the collaboration of the Communists in governing the country.

Practically no one, however, in the Christian Democrat Party sees any likelihood of Communist participation in government for the near future. Signor Moro, on the actual day of his kidnapping, had brought them into the parliamentary majority supporting the Government, but no more.

Despite the clear need to look for another secretary, the Party is going into the congress without any agreement on the procedure to adopt in choosing the next one. Signor Zaccagnini was elected directly by the congress. His predecessors were appointed after the congress by the newly-elected national council. The outgoing secretary will open proceedings this afternoon by reading his report which will take some three hours.

There are at the moment three main candidates. The first is Signor Francesco Cossiga,

show any sign of losing their position as the biggest party.

The real question facing the congress is difficult to define: is that a congress without its own great issues must demonstrate to its followers and to the country at large that the party possesses the vision and foresight to meet the problems facing Italy which are indeed, great issues.

There is no alternative to Christian Democrat ascendancy.

The party needs internal change, especially among its seemingly perpetual holders of ministeries. As one sharp observer put it, a series of a dozen or more heart attacks at the congress would help a lot. Terrorism, economic uncertainty, inflation, failing institutions, a dangerous gap between the governors and the governed, all call for a fresh approach, much as Signor Zaccagnini had in mind one which congress once again directly elects the secretary.

And there is always the adroit Signor Giulio Andreotti. His present role is supposed to be that of cultivating a long-term ambition to succeed to the presidency of the republic and a short-term one of having a decisive influence on the alliances among the factions represented at the congress.

The party has ruled Italy for 35 years. The only break in its armour is that a non-Christian Democrat prime minister is no longer ruled out.

Before Signor Cossiga formed his Government, President Pertini did in fact invite Signor Andreotti to try his hand. He failed. But he is accustomed to the possibility, not that the Christian Democrats

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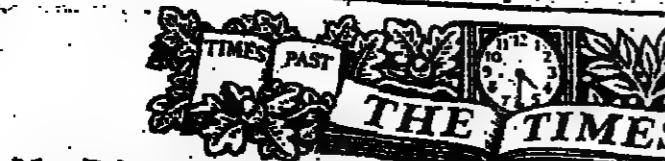
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EUROPEAN BUDGET MARK TWO

In presenting its new proposals for the European Community's 1980 budget the Commission has taken account of the demands that were made by the members of the European Parliament last December when they rejected the previous draft. It has proposed a cut in agricultural spending and an increase in spending in other areas, such as the regional and social funds. The proposals do not go as far as the Parliament demanded, but if adopted they would mark a step in the right direction because they would begin the process of reducing the overwhelming share of the budget that is taken up by agriculture. This is something of great importance for Britain, which receives so little of the money lavished on the common agricultural policy, but also for the other members of the Community, who can have no interest in maintaining the present lopsided nature of the budget. If adopted, the proposals would also show the Parliament, fresh from last year's direct elections, exercising real influence over the Community's spending priorities. Yesterday's presentation, however, was only the first move in what could be a long battle. The Commission's proposals now have to be discussed by the Council of Ministers, and there is every likelihood that they will be substantially changed. They will then go to the European Parliament, and the Parliament will almost certainly have to decide how hard it wants to fight for the sort of changes it was insisting on last December. Present indica-

tions are that the fighting spirit it showed then has died down somewhat, particularly among the Christian Democrats. This is partly a matter of losing the first flush of enthusiasm, partly of exposure to the farm lobbies, which have a long experience in the ways of influencing the Parliament. But the hope must be that when it comes to the point the Parliament will continue to insist on curbing the waste incurred by the common agricultural policy and taking account of other interests than those of the farm producers.

The Commission's proposals do

not bear directly on Britain's demand for an immediate reduction in its own contribution to the Community budget. This is due to be discussed at next month's summit meeting, and there will be no difficulty in inserting whatever may be agreed then into the budget framework now proposed by the Commission. But it is clearly in Britain's long-term interest that the balance of expenditure in the budget should be shifted away from agriculture, even if slowly, and so it might be expected that Britain would support the line taken by the Commission when the issue comes to the Council of Ministers. The trouble is that Britain, like other members of the Community, faces conflicting pressures when it comes to agricultural prices, with the farmers pulling one way, and the consumers and taxpayers pulling another. It has already made objections to some of the price proposals which have been made

by the Commission for the coming agricultural year, and which are an integral part of the budget proposals as a whole. The Government should be careful not to allow concern for farming interests to stand in the way of the broader national interest, for that would weaken the effect of its insistence on reform.

The crisis over the 1980 budget has not so far had dire effects on the activities of the Community. There has been no approved budget since January 1, but the Community has been able to operate on the basis of monthly instalments representing one twelfth of last year's budget appropriations. As time goes by, however, it will become increasingly urgent to reach a solution, particularly in the second half of the year, when big expenditures have to be made under the common agricultural policy. The basic issues are two: how to curb agricultural spending, and what should be the relationship between the Parliament and the Council of Ministers when it comes to policy-making. For so long now, the Council of Agricultural Ministers has been able to set prices on its own, without much control even by their colleagues in the Finance Ministry. Now the Parliament, or at least some members of it, are trying to exercise the control that the governments have failed to provide. The Parliament's powers are limited, but it has begun to have some effect, as the Commission's proposals show, and it is to be hoped that its nerve will hold.

MRS GANDHI'S STICKING POINT

On the face of it there seems some contradiction between the terse statement issued after Mr Gromyko's three days of talks in New Delhi and the embroidery on them offered to the press yesterday by the Indian spokesman. The official joint statement said nothing about Afghanistan. In his public after dinner speech Mr Gromyko seemed to imply that he had come to help India solve the regional troubles that had blown up and that were being unnecessarily prolonged by Pakistan's refusal to hold talks with Mr Babrak Karmal whereby the frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan could again be one of peace and friendship. The lack of any reference to Afghanistan is so conspicuous that it can hardly be covered up by the spokesman's charges against the Americans and his rebuff of those made against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Evidently there was some strong disagreement over the Soviet position there.

The questions raised by Mr Gromyko's visit and, more generally, those raised by Indian reactions to the Afghan crisis are more easily answered if one looks back at the past history of India's "leaving to one side" in respect of the Russians. It is not a recent phenomenon. It can be traced back to the thirties when India was looking to the left in Britain for support in its struggle for independence and naturally sided with the view of the Soviet Union

current in those days among the British left. Mr Krishna Menon might be instanced as the god-father of this leaning; Mrs Gandhi would have absorbed it in her Oxford days. The tendency has persisted in government circles in New Delhi ever since.

The point, however, is not simply the ancestry of such opinions from Nehru's time onwards, but the fact that in origin the opinions were second-hand and theoretical, deriving not from any direct relations with Russia or experience in India. With the passage of time no such direct experience has modified them. The division of Europe, or even Czechoslovakia have never had, for Indians the meaning that they have had for the West. They were too distant, too far from Indian experience to bring about any evolution in attitudes that were inert. The result was that India's ability in the cold war of the fifties to point to American faults and excuse Russian ones has been prolonged, to some extent by the Sino-Soviet split, where India was aligned with one side and Pakistan with the other, but essentially because the emotions had never been re-directed by meaningful experience.

By contrast, non-alignment has been a cherished Indian policy, blessed in its early days by the Bandung conference of 1955, over which Mr Nehru presided, and constantly redefined in the changing circumstances since

MRS THATCHER'S MODEL SON

The drawback from the Prime Minister's point of view in this sudden burst of notoriety for it includes driving racing cars by courtesy of the manufacturers of English contraceptives or Japanese textiles, that is for him. At any rate it puts him at the get-up-and-go end of the modern world. But he should not delude himself with the belief that his sponsor's interest in him is unconnected with the fact that he is the Prime Minister's son. Nor need he take so tragic a view of being caught up in a media event as to suppose that he is being hounded into exile. If he wants to live abroad, he has himself supplied the more solid reason of reducing his burden of taxation—that motive at least should meet with his mother's approval.

A lively art

From Mr Ian Caddy

Sir, I am delighted to learn that on September 10 this year, the Post Office will issue a special series of stamps depicting "Music", a subject that has received only a cursory glance in British philately. But I fear that the subjects to be presented are very much museum pieces and do nothing to promote music. Music in Britain, whilst one acknowledges former qualities, still excels and gives every indication of continuing to do so.

Commemorative stamps were first issued in Britain in 1924 whilst special issues were introduced in 1956. But since then only one musician has appeared: in 1972 Vaughan Williams' birth was featured as one of three unrelated airmailers, along with coastguards and the discovery of Tutankhamun. After that any musical references have been non-specific, comprising a Scots piper and a Welsh harpist, 1976; and four different historic styles of Christmas music-making, 1978.

This year, with an eagerly awaited issue specifically featuring music, we shall be given four dead music, we shall be given four dead

musicians: Messrs Wood, Beecham, Sargent and Barbirolli. Exceptional as these men were, the stamps will give no indication of the current

international musical stature of Great Britain, nor will they encourage new audiences. London has been the musical centre of the world for a decade; the pinnacle of a whole country's music, comprising performers, companies, and composers acclaimed around the world.

Could the Post Office not use the potential of the September "Music" stamps to better effect than simply to show interest in our forebears? What of the Proms, the new works of composers, festivals, operas? Far from dead, music in Britain is looking to the future.

Yours faithfully,

IAN CADDY,

57 Iverna Court, W8.

January 29.

Abortion Bill tactics

From Dr T. P. Lister

Sir, Whilst having sympathy with the main message in today's letter from Mr R. Rhodes James, MP (February 13), I was disappointed to read that "Organized" letters, read by the mass lobbies do not petitioners and mass lobbies do not

These are the traditional methods by which large numbers of ordinary people endeavour to publicize in justice and indicate the need for social reform. Our elected representatives would do well to realize

that such communication may be equally thoughtful, sincere and well informed as are individual letters. I have the honour to be, Sir,

T. P. LISTER,

Tun Hill Farm Cottage,

Tun Hill,

Westwell,

Near Ashford,

Kent.

As children are compelled to go to school it would seem right that their travel expenses be paid by the local authority. Where children have a choice of a near or far school, then a case can be made for paying for travel only to the near school, but in every other case the authorities have a clear duty to pay.

Yours faithfully,

D. R. TOWNSLEY,

3 Fairhaven,

Purme Hill, SW13.

February 11.

Trade unions and the rule of law

From Mr J. R. I. King

Sir, I know one shouldn't get upset by what one reads in newspapers, but your leader page today (February 8) has left my intellect stunned.

The members of the House of Lords in their decisions in the steel case have (a) strongly reasserted what they consider the meaning of section 13(1) of the Trades Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, to be, (b) made it clear that the House will adhere to its previous decisions in this area of the law, and (c) re-inforced the Court of Appeal that it should follow decisions of the House.

It is thus ridiculous that you should say in your leader: "If there is one consolation to be drawn from a reading of the reasons provided by the law lords, it is that they, too, now appear to feel strongly that Parliamentary intervention is necessary to save them from further confusion".

That Mr Cripps should write "... this strike has produced the nationally undesirable result that at this present time no one knows what the final result in the courts will be ..." and that Mr Blaum should write "... The decision of the House of Lords in *Dupont Steels Ltd and Others v Sirs and Others* has once again brought into prominence the law of the lottery".

For a newspaper whose philosophy is wedded to law and order and the rule of law, the support of the Court of Appeal about "furtherance of a trade dispute" in the steel dispute was so "wrong" that counsel for the steel employers (in whose favour the Court of Appeal had found) told the House of Lords, unprompted, that he could not support his case by relying upon any one of the reasons contained in the three judgments of the Court of Appeal.

The law lords have restored the law on trade union rights. That some (not all) law lords find these rights "regressive". In a modern society is scarcely a reason for the unionists tamely to accept that their rights should revert to 1903. Nor will a deliberate attempt to "take on the unions" by introducing retrograde legislation solve any one of our industrial difficulties.

There is an alternative road to greater industrial peace. It is a more difficult way than the path to confrontation hewn by the crude swing of legal axes to cut away the basic rights of 1945. It is the hard road of genuine conciliation and consultation, seeking answers to the social causes, not the symptoms of industrial disputes.

The goal is to be sought not in court rooms and prisons but around negotiating tables.

Did we learn nothing from the disastrous experience of 1971 to 1974?

Yours sincerely,

J. R. I. KING,

91 Croydon Road, SE20.

From Professor Lord Wedderburn of Charlton

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin (February 14) mocks me for establishing the fact that the "golden formula" of our trade union law (acts done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute) has remained the basis of trade union liberties since 1875 in the criminal law of conspiracy, and since 1906 in the civil law (especially on interference with contracts). He regards its relative antiquity alone as ground for jest. Perhaps he would take the same view of Magna Carta.

The central point is that a heavy burden of proof rests on those who wish to "restrict trade unionists' rights in the civil law to what they were in 1905. Mr Levin does not discharge that burden by quoting Sir Andrew Shonfield's views in 1968 about a quite different topic

Double appeal in steel

From Mr G. V. Bull

Sir, I did not think that *The Times* would lose its nerve.

Your leader about the steel strike

today (February 11) appears to be a sole-face. Nothing is clearer, as

has been repeatedly said, than that strikes hindering or ditching the country's recovery will continue as long as they appear to succeed.

Contrary to what I had thought

you had been saying since the strike began, you seem to be advocating today policies which will do this very thing. I hope again: hope that I have misunderstood you.

Yours faithfully,

G. V. BULL,

31a Sydenham Hill, SE26.

February 11.

From the Reverend D. A. Wood

Sir, There was a time when steel, making prospered in England. Some

management and workers were determined to work together to continue that prosperity in private firms.

The nationalised steel corporation has proved its wasteful worthless

on that account.

Notes for a concertgoer

From Mr Mark Gouden

Sir, The programme notes of Ates Orga may well be as convoluted and abstruse as the dissonances of Schoenberg himself, but they hardly merit the offensive castigation which Bernard Levin chooses to administer (*The Times*, February 13), nor do they justify his schoolboy parodying of Mr Orga's unusual name.

It so happens that Ates Orga is not only a musicologist of some distinction; but he is also an accomplished pianist and the author of several notable books on music.

It also happens that, since he is

of Turkish extraction, his name actually is Ates Orga. Whether "Bernard Levin" is a similarly undiluted and unabridged patronymic is something that only the sage of Gray's Inn Road himself is able to disclose.

He may be on dangerous ground here; he certainly is when he indulges in his fifth-form prank of constructing some vulgar anagrams from Mr Orga's eight-letter name.

This might easily backfire on St Bernard Levin. I would like to add, perhaps more seriously, "Dara vile Bert", and I am sure some more experienced crossword solvers could come up with many more piquant anagrams derived from the familiar signature of your captions commentator.

Yours faithfully,

MARK GOUDEN,

10 Lowndes Square, SW1.

February 11.

Race in the 1981 census

From Miss Ushe Prasher

Sir, The debate on the inclusion of a question on ethnic origin in the 1981 census has raised several issues which need to be drawn together and assessed.

There is no doubt that information

is necessary if discrimination and disadvantage is to be combat and positive policies are to be developed to cater for special needs of minorities.

Research carried out over the past fifteen years (much of it based

on the 1966 and 1971 Census data

and financed by Government) has

shown that discrimination and disad-

vantage are widespread.

Major strides may not have been

made to tackle these social ills, but

both Labour and Conservative

governments have accepted the need

for policies to deal with racial dis-

advantage and disadvantage. There

is, therefore, continuing need for

information which can be used both

to promote racial justice and to

encourage both central and local

government to implement relevant

legislation.

Is census the best method or are

there other methods of collecting

this information? Information can

be collected through surveys but

only at a very high cost and with

technical difficulties. Moreover



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 14: Mr J. M. Heath was received in audience by The Queen. Mrs Heath was present and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Santander.

Mrs Heath had the honour of being received by The Queen.

His Excellency Dr Jorgen Ruhfus was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Federal Republic of Germany to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to The Queen: Dr Alfred Becker (Minister Counsellor), Dr Hermann Hiltner (Minister Counsellor), Brigadier-General Jorg Kuebart (Defence and Air Attaché), Dr Werner Kilian (First Counsellor), Dr Hans-Joachim Voss (Counsellor), Herr Hans-Joachim (Counsellor), Herr Edoardo Karbo (First Counsellor), and Herr Alfred Reichardt (Second Counsellor).

Frans Ruhfus had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

Sir Michel Palius (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by The Queen, was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr R. M. Hunt was received in audience by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Falkland Islands.

Luncheons

HM Government
The Hon Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday, in honour of Dr J. M. Stone, Chairman of the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Lady Mayoress

The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress entertained the following guests at luncheon at the Mansion House yesterday:

The Premier of Queensland, and Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Farnham, and Lady Farnham; Sir David and Lady Kennerley, and the Master of the Society of Merchant Taylors, Sir Hugh Wooster and Mr J. H. Poynter.

Huntington Society

The annual dinner of the Huntington Society took place last night at the Savoy Hotel. Dr Douglas Woolf, president, was in the chair and the principal guests included Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, and Lady Denning, and Judge William Stabb, QC, and Judge William Stabb, QC, and Mrs Stabb.

Iron Society

The Iron Society held a dinner at the Royal Overseas League last night. The Master, Mr Deputy John T. Yates, presided and the other speakers were Lord Justice Ackner, Sir Hugh Wooster and Mr J. H. Poynter.

Service dinner

HMS Excellent

The anniversary of the Battle of Cape St Vincent was celebrated at the Royal Naval Mess, HMS Excellent, last night. Commander D. E. Ellin, RN, presided. Officers of HMS Collingwood were guests.

Latest wills

Air Marshal Sir Harold Thomas, Lydford, of Hart Hatch, Twyford, Berkshire, left £148,918 net. Other estates include (not before tax paid; tax not disclosed): Heffernan, Mrs Henrietta, £1,000; Eastwood, Mr Edward, £25,498; Rankin, Mr David, of Branscombe Park, Poole, Dorset, company secretary £185,289; Mrs Mary Doris, of Heswall, £145,882.

Page, Mr William, of Hook Norton, Farmer, Mr John, £127,415; Taylor, Mr John, of West Malling, Kent, £148,171; Finlayson, Mr Donald, of Oxton £162,324.

Lectures: Hampton experts: words to conjure with, Anthony Gooch, Bright House, New End £195; Mr Jack Lake, of Rutland, Northamptonshire, company director £626,754.

Thorburn, Mrs Henrietta Sybil Douglas, of Winkfield, Berkshire £134,434.

Other estates include (not before tax paid; tax not disclosed):

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Rankin, Mr David, of Branscombe Park, Poole, Dorset, company secretary £185,289.

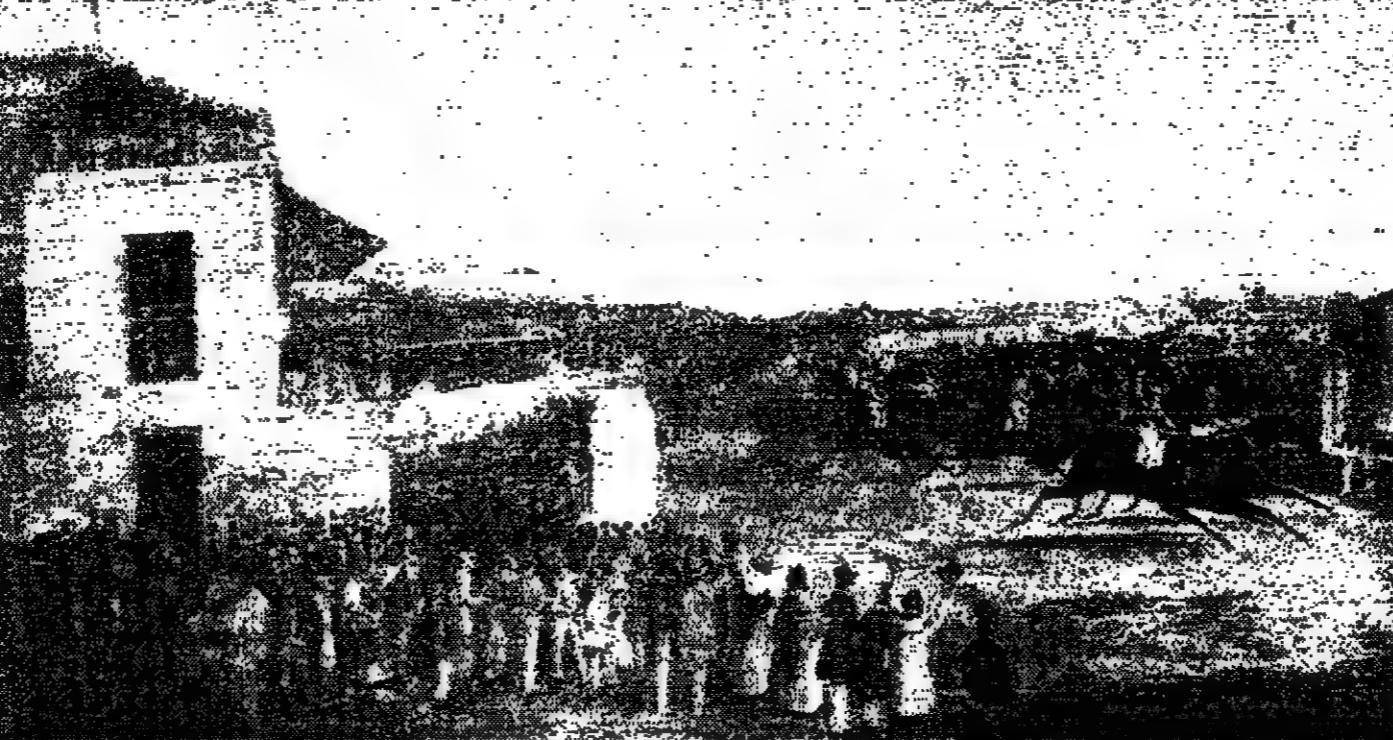
Kaye, Mrs Mary Doris, of Heswall £145,882.

ENERGY

A subject of vital importance to the future of this country. Last year alone the U.K. spent £17 billion on Energy. The Times Special Report to be published on March 25th, will look at Britain's vital reserves and the government's policies towards them. It will investigate Energy management; environmentalist views; depletion control of North Sea oil reserves; the future for coal; gas-pricing policy; nuclear power; solar energy; wind power and wave and sea barrages; electricity; synthetic fuels; pollution control and heat and power systems. The Times Special Report on Energy will provide an ideal opportunity for corporate or product advertising.

For further information and to advertise in this report please contact:

Mary Robson,
The Times, P.O. Box 7,
New Printing House Square,
Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8EZ
01-837 1234 Ext. 7398



Part of a painting by William Tasker of Chester depicting "Day of Algiers" winning the Chester Cup in 1840. It is one of 28 of his works to be sold by Bonham's on March 6.

Forthcoming

marriages

Mr M. T. Parker

and Miss A. Marmont

The engagement is announced between Michael Trevor, son of the Hon Sir Roger and Lady Parker, of The Old Rectory, Wildford, near Wye, and Annabel Marmont, of Petherton House, Llantrisant, Rhondda, Cardiff.

Mr K. D. Loader

and Miss A. L. Zimmerman

The engagement is announced between Kevin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Loader, of The Old Rectory, Wildford, and Andrea Leigh, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Le Grand Zimmerman, of Newark, Delaware, US.

Mr R. E. T. Nicholl

and Miss V. C. Taylor

The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Benjamin B. Dooh, of San Diego, California, and Rosalind, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Denis Church, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr R. C. N. Lindall

and Miss J. P. Garsbary

The engagement is announced between Charles Nicholas, only son of Brigadier and Mrs Robert Lindall, of Coombe Bissett House, Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Jill Penelope, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Garsbary, of Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr D. M. A. Dooh

and Dr R. S. Church

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Benjamin B. Dooh, of San Diego, California, and Vicki, daughter of Major J. M. Taylor of Queensland, Australia, and Mr Aileen Taylor, of Pleshey, Chelmsford.

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and Miss J. P. Garsbary

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Mr R. C. N. Lindall

Storm cones
hoisted over
windy city,
page 21

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

جامعة الملك عبد الله

Atlas Copco
compressed air systems.
A force you can turn
into profit.

Atlas Copco
Air Systems Technology for Generations to Come

■ Stock markets
FT Index 473.9 down 4.9
FT Gilt 66.97 down 0.08
■ Sterling
\$2.3130 up 50 points
Index 73.3 up 0.3
■ Dollar
Index 85.2 up 0.1
■ Gold
\$667.5 down 52.5
■ Money
3-month sterling 17.5-17.7
3-month Euro S 14.4-14.4
6-month Euro S 14.5-14.4

IN BRIEF

Europcar in bid for Godfrey Davis

Motor group Godfrey Davis has revealed the Paris-based Compagnie Internationale Europcar is behind the approach to buy its United Kingdom, Dutch and Spanish daily rental and chauffeur driven car hire business.

Midland Bank Industrial Investments has agreed to take a minority holding in the car hire operation if the deal goes through. The rental business accounts for around half of Davis's annual profits, and is thought to be worth between £10m and £20m.

Dow 50pc of Cromarty

Dow Chemical has confirmed that it has bought a 50 per cent stake in Cromarty Petroleum, part of the Daniel K. Ludwig, worldwide empire. Last week, Dow applied for outline planning permission from the Highland Regional Council, to build a £150m gas separation plant and downstream petrochemical complex at a site owned by Cromarty Petroleum on Cromarty Firth, north-east Scotland.

£25 Euroloan

Cleveland Bridge and Engineering is to borrow £25m over 10 years at 10.05 per cent from the European Investment Bank towards the £20m it is spending on a new steel cutting, forming and welding works at Darlington, Co Durham, expected to employ 925.

Chrysler prospects

Mr Lee A. Iacocca, chairman of the Chrysler Corporation, said in a telephone interview with the New York Times that the firm might not need any of the emergency public financing approved by the United States Congress last year.

£100m EEC loan

The European Economic Community said in Brussels it would lead the South of Scotland Electricity Board £100m to help finance a nuclear power plant in Torness, East Lothian.

Pound stronger

Sterling rose sharply in late trading yesterday to reach its best closing levels since last summer. Against a basket of currencies, the pound rose in 73.3 per cent of its end 1971 value, from 73 per cent on Wednesday. Its dollar value rose by 3 cent to \$2.3130.

Stalemate in Paris

Talks on export credits between Western industrialized nations and Japan ended in Paris yesterday. They were held under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. No agreement was reached.

Aerospace record

British aerospace industry posted goods worth £1,263m in 1979, nearly £100m up on the total for the previous year. This was the ninth year in succession in which the industry established a new export record.

Wall Street down

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 10.07 to 893.77 as trading slowed to 50.54m shares from yesterday's 65.23m. SDR-5 was 1.31891 and SDR-5 was 0.571749.

CBI calls for tax cuts to benefit lower paid in next Budget

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Tax cuts to aid lower paid workers are the unexpected main ingredient in the Confederation of British Industry's Budget proposals being put to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The CBI wants the Government to allocate more than half the £1,500m it estimates it can afford in overall tax cuts to raising personal allowances. This would remove about 500,000 of the poorest paid workers from income tax altogether and give below-average wage-earners an extra £2 to £3 per week.

Revenue to pay for tax concessions could be raised by economies in government spending, disposal of investment assets and a cut in EEC contributions. The CBI, whose recommendations are expected to have a strong influence on Treasury thinking, advocates no increase in duties on alcohol, petrol and tobacco because of the effect this could have on inflation.

Pressure for the emphasis in the proposals to be allocated to lower paid workers came from regional employers during last month's meeting of the CBI policy-making council.

CBI officials meeting Sir Geoffrey Howe, on Monday, will argue that tax cuts would help to restore the incentive to work. Sir John Hadley Greenborough, the CBI's president, said yesterday: "We wanted to concentrate the available resources in what we believe is the most effective way rather than to spread them thinly".

He added that "Nobody is going to be flush with money this year".

It had been expected that the CBI would call for more tax cuts to help middle managers this year. However, while continuing to express great concern about this group, the CBI view is that improved pay for managers should come directly from companies.

Subsidy budget proposals recommend a review of tax

COST OF CBI PROPOSALS FOR TAX REDUCTIONS

	1980-81
71 per cent real increase in personal allowances (over and above statutory "adjustment" for inflation)	900
Capital tax proposals and abolition of Investment Income Surcharge and Development Land Tax	200
Improvement in stock relief	300
Reliefs for smaller firms	100
	1500

relief on mortgage interest and stress there should be no immediate increase in the taxation of company cars.

Industrialists continue to regard the reduction in inflation as the overriding priority. Despite the acute difficulties being caused by high interest rates they are supporting the Government's fiscal and monetary policies.

The CBI is clearly hoping to influence pay settlements by recommending that increases in indirect taxes should be avoided as far as possible and that caution should be exercised in increasing charges for government-provided services.

Other economic forecasting groups have almost all assumed that the Chancellor will raise up to £1,500m in revenue by increasing duties on tobacco, alcohol, petrol and road fund.

Apart from recommending a rise in personal allowances by 71 per cent more than the rate of inflation, the CBI package wants changes in capital transfer tax and capital gains tax. Both of these, it says, are substantially harmful to businesses.

The CBI also calls for the abolition of the investment income surcharge. Special measures are urged to help small businesses including tax exemptions.

GEC stunned as Racal wins battle for Decca

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

The battle for Decca ended abruptly yesterday when Racal Electronics said it had irrevocable acceptances from enough Decca shareholders to give it voting control of the company.

It secured these with a new equity offer worth £103m at last night's prices backed by a cash alternative of £100m.

General Electric Company, whose best offer is worth around £106m, was stunned by the Racal coup, but was accepting defeat last night. Sir Kenneth Bond, deputy managing director of GEC, said: "On the basis that Racal in fact have got control of the voting shares there is nothing we can do about it."

Yesterday's events explain why Racal and its advisers, Hill Samuel, have remained silent throughout this week. They were negotiating with major Decca shareholders, including Mrs D. Dimentstein, a Swiss resident and the daughter of the late Mr M. Rosengarten, a former Decca director, who holds 8 per cent of Decca's votes.

It then went into the stock market yesterday morning and bought a further 403,000 Decca ordinary shares, raising its own holding up to 12.3 per cent of the voting capital. That gave Racal bare control of Decca. It now has only to send out its official offer to declare its bid unconditional in which case the acceptances become finally irrevocable. GEC cannot match this.

Racal's new terms are three ordinary shares for each Decca ordinary and five Racal shares for every two Decca "A" non-voting shares. On the basis of last night's Racal share price this values each Decca ordinary at 62p and each "A" at 51.7p. Racal is also offering a cash alternative of 600p for each Decca ordinary and 500p for each "A".

GEC's best offer is convertible loan stock which, assuming the stock would hold a premium of 10 per cent over par (which the stock market thinks it would), values each Decca ordinary at 64.5p.

This becomes academic now whether we would have been prepared to pay more. The directors of Decca do not know whether they could have done better for their shareholders. At least we have done some good for Decca shareholders—whether they could have done better is something they ought to ask their directors."

Decca's board, at that time still headed by Sir Edward Lewis, had backed Racal's first offer of £65.5m. It looked for a time as though the matter was settled, and that the offer reflected the considerable trading problems of Decca. Then GEC countered, and the result at the end of the day is that Decca shareholders have been offered another £38m.

"We were not given the opportunity of being asked

whether we would have been prepared to pay more. The directors of Decca do not know whether they could have done better for their shareholders. At least we have done some good for Decca shareholders—whether they could have done better is something they ought to ask their directors."

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Financial Editor, page 21

BNOC sale plan hits delay over PSBR

By Nicholas Hirst

Government plans to invite private capital into the state-owned British National Oil Corporation are running into increasing difficulties because of the adverse effects on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in future years.

The complexity of the sale, coupled with difficulties of timing, could even prove so great that the whole idea may have to be scrapped, but at the moment, despite differences between the Government Department and Number 10 Downing Street, ministers still believe that the plan can proceed.

The basic plan was to split BNOC in two, retaining the oil trading arm which has rights to 51 per cent of all offshore production in Government hands so securing future oil supplies for the nation, but offering shares in a newly created exploration and production company.

As yet the Government has been unable to decide whether to offer ultimately more or less than 50 per cent of this company to the public. With BNOC's North Sea assets valued at up to £2,500m a sale of more than a third might be difficult for the stock market to swallow.

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'Production inhibited by inflation' -Gatt

In describing near-term trade prospects as "not encouraging," Gatt (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) says in Geneva that uncertainty generated by inflation and protectionist pressures continues to be the main factor inhibiting productive investment.

"Inflationary expectations have become more firmly entrenched, and the confidence with which economic agents can plan their actions continues to be eroded," Gatt added, in his first 1980 assessment.

The most important task of policy is to alter these expectations, since both the length and the cost of the fight against inflation depend on it.

It points to the necessity of coupling monetary restraint with measures to minimize relative price distortions, promote competition and increase the responsiveness of the economy to changing conditions—for example by allowing domestic energy prices to reflect world market levels.

Italy seeks fibre curbs

Italy's plans to inform Mr Reubin Askew, the United States trade negotiator of its intention to seek curbs on imports of certain synthetic fibres from the United States, Italian official sources said yesterday.

Silver output up

Mexican silver production should rise about 18 per cent in 1980, said Señor Ricardo Rojas, director of Industrial Penoles SA, one of the country's largest mining and metalworking companies. Output should reach 65 million troy ounces. About 70 per cent will be exported.

New Zealand deficit

New Zealand had a balance of payments deficit of \$NZ237m (about £223m) in the year ended December 12, compared with a deficit of \$NZ292m the previous year, the reserve bank of New Zealand reports.

Bonn-East trade fall

West Germany's trade surplus with the Soviet Union, other east European countries, China and North Korea declined 44.6 per cent in 1979 from 1978, according to figures published by the Bonn economics ministry.

Fewer ships ordered

Foreign shipbuilding orders received by Japanese shipyards in January fell to 16 ships, totalling 391,900 gross tons, from 45 and 1.31 million tons, but rose from 11 and 218,800 tons a year ago, the Japan Ship Exporters Association said in Tokyo.

Dutch c.o.t. rise

Dutch cost of living index rose 5.5 per cent to a provisional 129.0, base 1975, in the year to mid-January, compared with 4.8 per cent in the year to mid-December, according to economics ministry figures released at The Hague.

Yards ready to consider implications of 15-month self-funding deal Shipbuilders swallow bitter pill on jobs and pay

Over the next few days, shipyard workers will be considering the implications of the new fifteen-month pay deal agreed with British Shipbuilders. The loss-making shipbuilding corporation appears to have succeeded in securing a deal which has so far eluded the negotiators of the British Steel Corporation.

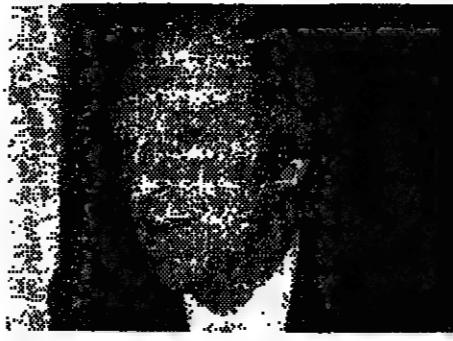
Comparisons are unavoidable. Both are operating in an international market where demand for products has diminished; where costs are rising; where competition is intense; and where productivity is low by standards of their major international competitors.

Equally, both industries are being squeezed by the Government's insistence on a return to commercial reality to be achieved within the framework of rigorously applied cash limits. And both have had to contend with the need to rationalise facilities and reduce labour.

BS entered the negotiations against the background of a continued gloomy international outlook for the next two or three years but with agreement secured last autumn with the unions for a shake-out of some 10,000 workers from its labour force.

The corporation has been successful in carrying through redundancies since it was nationalized in 1977. About 12,000 workers have left the industry since then, taking the enhanced redundancy terms made available in shipbuilding.

The unions, who negotiate through the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, have huffed and puffed over the level of cutbacks required. But their eventual agreement has enabled the board of BS to move forward its plans



Mr Michael Casey: pay deal will bring stability to industry.

for further reductions and the likelihood of trouble, while always present, is not seen as a major threat.

The industry's 76,000 workers are being asked to accept a fifteen-month deal which falls well below the aspirations of their union negotiators when discussions began, and well below the 20 per cent which has become the rallying call for striking steelworkers. But the settlement at national level is within a hairsbreadth of the 14 per cent which BS believed it had secured with its craft unions yesterday until its two-to-one rejection at a delegate conference. At the Treasury, the shipbuilding deal has been seized on by officials as more than encouraging and is seen as a success for the cash limits policy.

Shipyard workers will receive a 10 per cent rise from April 1 on present rates in individual yards (not on minimum rates) with a further 5 per cent in October. To bridge the gap caused by the change in settlement dates—from January to April—there will be a lump sum payment of £125 for semi and unskilled workers, £150 for skilled workers and £200 for managers and foremen. This amounts to an 11.5 per cent increase on an annual basis according to British Steel. The deal will cost £52m and (unlike BS's attempts so far) will be self funding.

Mr Michael Casey, the chief executive of the corporation emphasized that the deal would give a stable period at a critical time for the industry which is still working towards its base load target of 45 merchant ship orders this year. So far it has secured firm orders for 26 vessels. Vital to the industry's ability to meet its targets are the improvements in productivity which have eluded the industry for so long. The target is to boost productivity—expressed in terms of tonnes per man per year—by 82 per cent by 1982-83 compared with the average from the 1973-77 period.

Latest published figures show that the taxpayer is subsidizing the shipbuilding industry at a rate of £297 per man. The corporation ends its financial year next month. A loss of £53 million was recorded for the first half, although the corporation is optimistic that it will remain inside the Government-set loss limit of £100m for the full year. But as the cash constraints will be tightened next year and will be a critical test for the management and the unions.

Peter Hill

Leyland setbacks not isolated in motor industry's global crisis

By Clifford Webb

The full extent of the crisis facing the motor industry worldwide is only now emerging, and shows that British Leyland's latest sales setback is far from isolated. In the United States it is reported that 260,000 of the 758,000 hourly paid motor industry workers are laid off, and Ford is expected to report a \$1,700m (£736.5m) loss for last year. American production at the end of 1979, and is reported to have resumed at very reduced levels.

General Motors, the world's largest motor manufacturer, whose profits were halved last month, is stopping some shifts entirely.

Chrysler's critical situation with the federal government providing big financial assistance after the corporation's biggest-ever loss of \$1,100m is still giving rise to concern about its ability to ride out the present storm.

BL order to manufacture German truck gearbox

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Leyland Vehicles, the truck and bus arm of British Leyland, yesterday signed its first deal to manufacture a major foreign component in its factories. More joint-venture projects were foreshadowed by Mr David Abell, LV's chairman and managing director.

ZF of Friedrichshafen, Germany, Europe's leading independent gearbox producer, has licensed Leyland to manufacture its new 56-36 synchronmesh box for installation in a range of 12 to 24-ton trucks which will go into production at Esthgate in Scotland during 1983.

Leyland's existing medium-weight boxes are outdated and of the "crash" gear-change type.

Mr Abell told a press conference in London: "Every-

In Canada, production so far this year is reported to have fallen by over a third, with Chrysler Canada closing one plant.

In Europe, short-time working and layoffs are extensive, and expected to get worse. In Germany, for so long the pace-setter, Ford Granada production was halted for six weeks at the end of 1979, and is reported to have resumed at very reduced levels.

Attempts are being made to switch production to the much smaller Fiesta which is still in good demand. Opel has also introduced short-time working in its factories, and there are reports that extensive layoffs are on the way. Industry sources suggest that Mercedes-Benz, which has enjoyed a long waiting list for its cars for several years, is now receiving substantial cancellations of orders.

A BL spokesman said last night: "We are not surprised by what is happening in the rest of the world, and it does put our troubles into perspective. Hundreds of thousands of workers are laid off in America. The whole industry worldwide is facing a recession because of depressed markets brought about by rising fuel costs, and fears of a general economic setback."

The institute is amending its bylaws to make clear that scales of fees in future will not be mandatory but recommended only as guidance.

Members will be free to settle at fees of their own choosing, although there will be a safeguard that once a fee is formally subordinated it may not later be revised because of different fees quoted by other quantity surveyors.

This was reported yesterday by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, after talks with the institute.

VW heads attack on lorry sales in the UK

By Edward Townsend

MAN-VW Truck and Bus, the joint United Kingdom marketing operation for the two German vehicle manufacturers, said yesterday it planned to increase sales in the United Kingdom this year to 10,000 units, a rise of more than 42 per cent on 1979.

The forecast, made in the face of an expected 15 per cent decline in van and lorry sales in the United Kingdom this year, emphasizes the growing competition among manufacturers, particularly in the heavy truck sector.

The importers, led by VW which is strong at the lighter end of the market, are all launching major sales offensives designed to capture business from the home producers BL, Ford, Dodge and Bedford.

MAN-VW, established in the United Kingdom a year ago, plans to spend almost £5m in 1980 on a new head office, warehouse, training and technical centre at Swindon and is embarking on a dealer recruitment drive to boost the combined total of outlets from the 1979 level of 104 to 160.

In the coming 12 months it is hoped that sales of heavy trucks will double to 4,000 units and give the company a 6 per cent of the market. VW light trucks already hold 17.5 per cent of the United Kingdom market and the target in this sector is to boost sales by 2,000 units to 8,000 this year and increase market share to 24 per cent.

Scale fees rule ended by quantity surveyors

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

The Institute of Quantity Surveyors is dropping mandatory scale fees for its members so that they can freely compete on quotations to customers.

It is the first professional group among surveyors and architects to make this move after the Monopolies and

Markets Commission reported two years ago that professional rules against quoting competitive fees were against the public interest.

The institute is amending its bylaws to make clear that scales of fees in future will not be mandatory but recommended only as guidance.

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In fact, two simple lessons can be learned from the experience Goodhart cites. First, governments promise more than the economy can deliver. There are natural levels for real interest rates and unemployment and no amount of monetary policy can go beyond these limits.

Second, governments disregard at their peril the expectations of

the market.

Yours faithfully,

ROY BATCHELOR,
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February 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DHSS advantage in company insolvency 'particularly unfair'

From Mr A. M. Horan

Sir, Ian Watt's article headed

"Insolvency: the state's unfair advantage"

in your issue of February 11 rightly focuses

attention on the Crown's increasing

priority treatment in insolvencies.

One of the effects of this is to erode the assets

with which a liquidator or

receiver is entitled to trade in

seeking to preserve or rescue a

business. Coupled with the

increase in the use of reservation

of title by suppliers and

the incidence of fixed mort-

gages on book debts and plant

and machinery, the increase in

Crown priority may be begin-

ning to impinge on the chances

of businesses being rescued and

it is right that the matter

should be examined.

There is however one aspect

of the State's advantage that is

particularly unfair and that is

the effect of certain provisions

of the Social Security Act 1975

under which company directors

can be held personally responsi-

ble for payment of National

Insurance contributions unpaid

on a company's insolvency. The

Department of Health and

Social Security can pursue such

claims against directors to the

point of making them bank-

rupt. Directors are placed in an

unjust position by those pro-

visions. Any director of a

troubled company who does not

pay the DHSS is foolhardy but

any director who seeks to avoid

personal liability by paying the

DHSS ahead of other creditors

is probably making a fraudu-

lent preference within Section

320 of the Companies Act 1948.

Little or no publicity has

been given to these provisions

and the attitude of the DHSS

appears to be that publicity

might lead to difficulties in

tracing directors to whom the

provisions apply. I wonder how

many company directors are

aware of the risk they run and

I question whether it is right

for this particular unfair advan-

tage to continue pending the

deliberations of the Cock Com-

mittee.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. HOMAN,
Price Waterhouse & Co.,
Southwark Towers,
32 London Bridge Street,
London SE1 9ST

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A coup de grâce from Racal

Not unnaturally there were a few ruffled feathers in the GEC camp yesterday when Racal produced its coup de grâce with a bid for Decca that is in fact slightly below GEC's on last night's prices, but which nevertheless has the support of just over 50 per cent of the Decca voting capital. Moreover, this includes members of the Decca board whose shareholdings, though not significant, have been thrown irrevocably in with Racal along with a recommendation of Racal's bid.

This is a shut-out and may not have been possible under the pre-1976 Takeover Code which had fairly strict rules governing such tactics. Under a Code revision these were deemed too cumbersome in that they delayed an outcome and promoted an auction, often to the disadvantage of the employees of a company and shareholders. In this case the Panel, which was consulted by Racal, has decided that General Principle II, which effectively guards against directors acting in their own interests, has not been breached.

So Racal's new terms value Decca at around £103m, with a cash offer of £100.7m. GEC's best offer, in convertible loan stock, values Decca at around £106m, if one assumes (reasonably) that the stock is worth a premium of about 10 per cent over par. Without Racal's successful negotiations for the shut-out, then, this bid could well have been decided by an argument in the market over the respective values of the two contenders' paper.

That is not to be since Racal now has only to send out its official offer to secure the bid, going unconditional, something which GEC can no longer do. GEC has been outmanoeuvred, but its intervention has gained Decca shareholders an additional £38m over that which the Decca board was originally prepared to accept when it recommended Racal's opening terms.

The performance of Decca's board apart though, Racal has also been able to achieve success with the help of a number of institutional shareholders who have accepted. They won't be thanked by institutions who decided to hold out on the view that at this stage GEC may have been prepared to go a little higher. Still, the deal is done, and given Racal's performance after the acquisition of Milgo, the benefits of the Decca purchase even at this price should be showing through within three years.

Imperial

Ahead of the Ho-Jo bid

Disappointing profits from Imperial Group—£136.7m against £131m—match the forecast made at the time of the Howard Johnson bid. So interest turned to the dividend and Imperial duly delivered, celebrating its fourth year of near static profits with a 15 per cent increase in the net payment.

Meanwhile, giving further support to the income status, is the news that the dividend would be 11 times covered even inflation-adjusted after tax profits of £66m, while the gilt holdings now stand at more than £250m.

As anticipated, eggs did the damage on the trading front with Eastwood losing £5.4m and food profits overall dropping £2.1m to £34.7m, where they represent only



Sir John Pile, chairman of Imperial Group.

2 per cent of turnover. Margins in tobacco, however, improved a point to give profits of £78.6m as brand hostilities eased, while Imperial held on to its 43 per cent of the king-size market.

Prospects for the current year look mixed

Business Diary: Kilmarnock's bitter harvest • Oil birds

The employees of the Massey-Ferguson combine harvester plant at Kilmarnock are today added to the names of those from Singer, Prestcold and Goodpaster on the roll-call of multinational companies in the West of Scotland. With today's closure, 1,000 jobs will disappear immediately, to be followed by another 500 by the end of May.

The international search for alternative work launched by the company has yet to yield a positive offer. The keenest interest in the huge Kilmarnock plant has come from the consortium of British business men, led by Alan Curtis, joint chairman of Aston Martin, which is bidding for the MG car.

They have visited the factory and can well convert it for sports car production if negotiations give them the MG marque without BL's Abingdon factory, where the cars are now produced.

Aston Martin would require 1,500 workers which by happy coincidence is the total thrown out at Kilmarnock.

Sam Kay, convenor of shop stewards, told Business Diary yesterday that the factory was working right up to the last minute. They had set up their own committee to serve local industry and this had resulted in two contracts to make spare parts for Massey-Ferguson. Negotiations were in hand with several other companies but so far only 54 men could be employed.

Among the other approaches was one from Miharishi Yoshi's transnational meditation movement which had £5m to invest. Unfortunately, M-F had no products in which the money could be spent so this divine intervention came to naught.

Eight oil companies have formed a North Sea Bird Club (it says in an announcement from BP) "providing a recreational interest for men employed on offshore installations and to encourage interest in birds and their environment."

The chairman of the club is David Merritt of BP Petroleum Development, his deputy is Robin Cox of Phillips and the secretary is Sam Alexander of Chevron.

Bird movements will be observed by club members using on fixed production platforms, and sent to Professor George Dunnet for computer collection and analysis at the University of Aberdeen's zoology department.

BNOC, Shell, Conoco, Mobil and Occidental are the other five companies which showed up at the meeting.

"This development" BP says "is seen as providing a major

stimulus to British ornithology comparable with the setting up of the chain of bird observatories around our coasts in the immediate post-war era" (that is, after the war—Ed.).

It's a fair bet that Saburo Okita is having talks with Yoshiro Ikeda and of Toshikuni Furuhashi at the moment.

Dr Okita is the Japanese Foreign Minister and Ikeda and Yehiro are the chairman and president respectively of Japan's Mitsui trading company.

The problem is that Dr Okita at the moment would prefer not to do either the last or head of state. Ayatollah Khomeini or his United States opposite number.

It is difficult, however, to keep both parties happy right now. Thus, in deference to the Americans and in line with the preference of Dr Okita, the Mitsui men recently withdrew the team of engineers that had

been building a big petrochemical plant in Iran.

However, when two weeks ago optimistic sounds about the release of the American hostages captured began to be heard, the team was sent back in deference to the Ayatollah.

The Japanese team was all in place in Iran, and, according to reports reaching Business Diary, was only waiting for Wednesday night's broadcast by President Carter, when it was thought—mistakenly—he would say that the American hostages would soon be on their way home.

Either "Japan Inc.", the business-government coordination as feared by the US, doesn't exist at all in a somewhat haphazard fashion.

Of the crop of travellers' tales from the Gulf that has come my way there are three I'd like to tell, but one would involve heads rolling both here and there.

Of the two I can tell, one concerns the recent sighting of two snow-ploughs at Muscat, whereby no doubt hangs another tale—and if any Business Diary reader can tell more, then please get in touch.

The surplus is swelling the Abta retailers' fund which helps meet liabilities to customers of failed retail agents. But the royalties are expected to reach at least £120,000 in royalties for Abta last year—not all of which went out again.

The surplus is swelling the Abta retailers' fund which helps meet liabilities to customers of failed retail agents. But the royalties are expected to reach at least £120,000 in this year.

There are group discounts and if you're groaning for medical help in a far-flung spot with the local medics insisting on knowing whether he will be paid before dealing with the case, there's a 24-hour emergency call-in service with the medical centre giving 24 hours.

It sounds as if the scheme should prosper but Abta chief executive Michael Elton will not be drawn on what happens to all those insurance royalties when the retailers' fund has plenty to go on with. He said: "We'll just have to wait and see what happens, but it is nice to feel slightly rich".

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The unadjusted trading figures are as follows:

	6 months to 31st October 1979	6 months to 31st October 1978	Year ended 30th April 1979
TURNOVER			
Sales, Brokerage & Fee Income	£26,695	£213,555	£435,649
PROFITS ON TRADING			
less: Central Costs	10,004	3,854	12,985
Non-trading Interest	476	384	709
TRADING PROFITS BEFORE TAXATION	3,308	1,619	4,512
	6,220	1,851	7,764

The unadjusted accounts for the first half of the current year show that trading profits before taxation have increased substantially compared with the corresponding period of last year, when they were unusually low. Banking profits for the year to date are up compared with last year.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 2.75p per share on the ordinary shares which compares with the 2.25p per share for the same period last year, an increase of 22%. This dividend, which will absorb £1,808,185 (last year, £1,471,598), will be paid on the 25th March 1980 to ordinary shareholders on the register at the close of business on 10th March 1980. Dealing in the shares will be suspended from the 25th February 1980.

Guinness Peat Group Limited

COMMODITY BROKING AND GENERAL MERCHANT BANKING, MONEY BROKING, INTERNATIONAL PROJECT CO-ORDINATION, INVESTMENT AND INSURANCE BROKING.

even discounting the \$630m Howard Johnson takeover, which still hangs on liquor licensing laws being overcome in four remaining states. Imperial is still not making money on eggs although signs that the EEC glut could be subsiding provide scope for fairly strong recovery.

For cigarettes, however, the outlook is far less hopeful. A Budget price increase of anything between 8p and 12p seems likely and if calls for an advertising ban succeed the decline in consumption could accelerate to as much as 4 per cent this year. At the same time brewing is unlikely to turn in much more than last year's £8.3m.

The upshot is that shares, up 3p to 84p yesterday are going to be held in check at least until mid-April in spite of the attractions of the 12 per cent yield. Thereafter prospects of profits rising to perhaps £140m, excluding Ho-Jo, and the long-term promise held out by the American acquisition should ensure a firmer market, provided of course that the liquor licence snags in California are overcome.

Dalgety

Integrating Spillers

On the strength of its four months' experience so far, Dalgety reckons that has in Spillers exactly what it expected to have: the strong bits are strong, the weak bits are weak, and the lot will take about a year to integrate. So the £2m which Spillers contributed to the group's half-time profits—up from £1.2m to £15.7m pre-tax—is no indication of the eventual impact of the £70m acquisition on the profit and loss account.

A generally good performance elsewhere was marred by a firm downturn in food processing and distribution to £400,000 pre-tax, which reflects difficulties in the United States frozen foods business which are not likely to be resolved in the immediate future. Moreover the Canadian lumber business, which marked time in the first half with same again pre-tax profits of £2.2m, is likely to suffer in the second from the downturn in housing starts in the United States. But strong wool and livestock prices should benefit the agricultural side, which still provides about half of the group's profits: so—in spite of the impact of higher interest costs (and borrowings, including Spillers', are up from £151.4m to £247.8m)—the group will probably make something in the region of £45m for the year, against an £31.5m last time.

That, however, will hardly set the stock market alight. Dalgety's shares shed a penny to 398p yesterday, at which level they yield 10.5 per cent on the forecast dividend. They are not likely to move up relative to the market in the foreseeable future, and could move down: so there's no argument for buying at the moment.

The gilt-edged market failed to add to Wednesday's sharp rally yesterday. Indeed, it was left facing something of a puzzle. The initial reaction to the Bank of England's move to relieve the present reserve asset shortage and keep the lid on base rates had been bullish on two grounds.

First, it confirmed that the Bank did not want to see interest rates any higher. Second, it suggested that it would be very odd for the authorities to exacerbate short-term pressures still further by launching into a fresh round of funding at the moment. Encouraging though the short-term technical situation may look for gilts, however, the fact remains that, in spite of the massive flows to the Exchequer during banking January, sterling M3 grew by 1.1 per cent, leaving the annualized rate of growth since last June at 13.2 per cent.

Now it may just be that the particularly distorted structure of relative interest rates led some companies to fund tax payments in the short-term by drawing down overdrafts—thus keeping bank lending and sterling M3 higher than they might otherwise have been. But until the situation becomes clearer with another set of monthly figures, there must be the suspicion that the problem of dealing with the technical problems of the banks and money markets could mean that it will take several more months to bring sterling M3 back on course.

Chicago is facing a severe financial crisis. Frank Vogl reports

Storm cones hoisted over the windy city

Washington, Feb 14. An 'ill wind has been blowing through the city of Chicago, sending worrying signals to the financial world, forcing bankers to negotiate through long nights to avert a disaster and making many wonder about the validity of the old claim that Chicago is "the city that works".

Chicago's financial crisis reach the proportions and have the consequences of the virtual bankruptcy of New York City some time ago.

The financial agencies are hopeful. Their opinion is crucial and so far they have been convinced that the city can resolve its difficulties: so they have refrained from brutal action on Chicago's credit standing.

But they have issued severe warnings. Last week Moody's Investors Service dropped its rating on city bonds from "AA" to "A" and declared that the bonds were "no longer considered of high quality".

Seven days ago the Standard & Poor's agency switched its rating from "A-plus" to "A minus". A reduction from the "A" category was unwarranted, "at this time", a caveat which clearly implies a change could come.

This is a story of political corruption and balance sheet manipulation, of astute detective work by financial investigators and of a whole set of complicated financial deals. The deals, and others to be negotiated will make or break the city of Chicago and Mayor Jane Byrne, who took office last April.

Another report came to light of Mr Eddie Yeo, third former Under-secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs. He is already experienced in rescue schemes, having helped to pull New York back from the brink of bankruptcy. Mr

Yeo was a top executive of the First National Bank of Chicago, which a couple of weeks ago when he became the mayor's chief of financial advisors.

Mayor Richard Daley ruled Chicago with an iron fist: Chicago had the best run political machine in the United States. Through Mayor Daley Chicago carved out a special position of power and influence in American politics.

There the snow came. The storms were so bad that massive expenses were incurred just to keep the city going, some \$60m of special expenses were involved. Some bankers, including Mr Yeo at the First National Bank, started to dive into the city's books and as they did so, they began to find funny numbers all over the place.

By Mid-December the bankers knew that new cash sought by the city, ostensibly for new fire station construction, was desperately needed to cover the wage bill. Some \$50m was required.

By January it was common knowledge that the finances were in such confusion that a full-scale crisis was at hand.

Both the City and the Board of Education were in desperate difficulties.

Mr Yeo at First Chicago and Mr John Perkins and Mr David Taylor at Continental Bank began to devise a complicated rescue plan. The mayor knew what was at stake, pledged his full support and cooperated with the bankers to the full.

The bond rating agencies reacted angrily, convinced that they had been duped for years by the city they trusted. For the mayor and the bankers, winning the confidence of the rating agencies was a critical test.

"Chicago takes pride in its

seemingly financial jumble" was certain to surface. An assortment of factors forced matters into the open. A new mayor took office determined to place his own stamp on the town. She talked about the city of Chicago and Mayor Jane Byrne, who took office last April.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Howard Machinery in second-half plunge

By Rosemary Unsworth
Howard Machinery's results made disappointing reading with the full-year profits almost halved, despite good progress at the interim stage.

Pre-tax profits were down from £2.25m to £1.2m while turnover rose 9 per cent to £85.4m in the year to October 31, 1979. This follows a jump in profits at the halfway stage from £96,000 to £484,000.

The extent of the City's disappointment was marked by a 4p fall in the share price to 18p after the announcement.

The downturn was caused by three different areas of the group's business. The engine division of the group's American subsidiary, which handles Ford industrial engines for use in leisure power boats, was hit by the United States economic and energy problems, while the German company which supplies rotavators failed to move its stock, which is traditionally built up during the year, for sales in September and October.

But the chairman, Mr Peter Coleclough, said that a management reorganization had put the company back into the black already.



Mr Peter Coleclough, chairman of Howard Machinery.

industry. Control will pass to the Illinois-based A. O. Smith Harvestore Products although the United Kingdom management will remain unchanged.

The French, Australian and J. Manu operations contributed improved profits during the year and France was also a major source of the overseas tax charge, which fell from £1m to £212,000 during the year. The previous year the German company was responsible for the higher tax charge, Mr Coleclough pointed out. Deferred tax amounted to £194,000 compared to £435,000, and the board said that United Kingdom deferred tax is not now provided where there is no reasonable probability that such tax will be payable in the foreseeable future.

Despite a warning earlier in the year that the final dividend would be reduced to conserve funds to meet a market recovery, the proposed final has been maintained at 8.4p gross, which with the interim of 8.8p gross, makes a total of 16.6p—the same as the previous year. Mr Coleclough said that it was not "a tremendous sum" to pay to shareholders.

The United Kingdom rotavator division also suffered from overcapacity during the year.

In addition, the group is close to completing negotiations for the sale of its 50 per cent stake in Howard Harvestore, a Suffolk-based company which makes automated livestock feeding system and storage units for

the morning and it was the most actively traded share all day. In the end, it closed 33p up at 366p, leading the way for a generally firm shipping sector. Fashion & General leapt 40p to 205p, accompanied by Scottish and Mercantile, 18p stronger at 138p and Ocean Wilsons unchanged at 88, all with stakes in Furness.

Shares of P & O DfD gained some comfort from the interest being expressed in Furness, too, rising 2p to 121p, while Euro Ferries was 3p firmer at 118p. The final blow in the battle

of

Industrial worries finally put paid to the market's recent optimistic appearance yesterday as buyers took their profits.

Equities again proved the dominant force, although after early interest, in which some selective buying was encountered, business tended to turn quiet by around midday.

So once again, the stage was left to the speculative second-liners and takeover situations where there appeared no shortage of customers intent on making a quick profit.

However, even some of these had lost some of their appeal by the close of official business as the profit-takers began to move in.

Oils had a fairly quiet day, following their recent performances as did golds, where the bullion price slipped \$27.50 to \$667.50.

By 3 pm, the FT Index showed only a 1.0 rise, after opening 6.6 up.

Gilt, too, had a much quieter time, following the previous day's hectic buying which had pushed up prices by as much as 22 in some cases.

After a fairly firm start, business began to fizz out with little if any attention given to the money supply figures which were more or less on target.

Nevertheless, rises of between 5p and 10p in longs soon began to fade, so that by the close most were unchanged on the day. At the shorter end of the market, things were a little worse, news that delegates of the craftsmen's union in the steel dispute had rejected the recent pay offer of 14 per cent.

As a result, falls of about an £1 to £1 were soon being registered.

The news of the steelmen's decision also had an impact on the equity market after hours as jobbers decided to be safe rather than sorry and marked prices lower. In the event, the FT Index tumbled 4.9, to close at 47.9.

Furness Withy was the market's start-turn of the day following the bid from C. Y. Tung of 360p a share. The price shot up to over 400p as soon as trading commenced in

the buoyant oil scene.

Traditional options, on the other hand, had another quiet session, "puts" being arranged in Western Areas, Harmony and North Kalgoorlie.

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown as pre-tax and earnings are net. a = 27 weeks; b = 9 months; c = special dividend.

while the "A" rose 32p to 481p. GEC was 3p easier at 386p.

Ferranti remained optimistic about further takeover prospects and edged ahead 3p to 522p, but Plessey dipped 10p to 141p. Another bid hopeful, Beree rose 7p to 123p on hopes of an approach from overseas, as MK Electric rose 3p to 198p, with stakes in Furness.

Shares of P & O DfD gained some comfort from the interest being expressed in Furness, too, rising 2p to 121p, while Euro Ferries was 3p firmer at 118p.

The final blow in the battle

of

Jewellery group Ratners has been a weak market lately following from a year's high of 76p to 50p. However, some buying at this lower level raised the shares 3p yesterday to 53p, where they still look an interesting situation.

for Deccas was delivered late on. In the afternoon when Racal made its third and final offer which most observers believe will be enough to give Racal the victory it had fought so hard for. But on hearing the latest terms, shares of Racal plunged 20p to 207p, as Deccas fell 15p to 580p in the ordinary.

Speculative interest was good enough for rises among some of the second-liners, which included De Vere Hotels 18p to 213p, Martonair, 1p to 210p, Sketchley 14p to 141p, De La Rue 10p active in this market, rising 20p to 640p, while the recent increase in coal provided Burnet & Hallsworth with a 10p rise to 545p.

Shares came in for a battering after hours on a warning on profits from the chairman of Freeman's which knocked the

price 20p to 132p. This, in turn, hit GUS "A" 5p to 388p, Gratian 4p to 94p and Empire Stores 10p to 168p.

The engineering sector held up relatively well to the latest news in the steel strike with Metal Box unchanged at 264p, and Vickers only up off at 135p. Investment buying pushed Adwest 7p higher at 185p and Tubes 10p to 312p, but Howard Machinery fell 4p to 18p after some full-year figures which were lower than expected.

Imperial Group rose 2p to 84p after its profits announcement, while William Whittingham jumped 7p to 110p after its 76 per cent profit leap.

Leading industrials closed on the bottom in after-hours, although very little selling was reported. Dunlop dipped 3p to 67p on profit-taking, with dealers surprised at how well the price had stood up despite the denial that it was about to sell its plantation interests to Guthrie.

Grand Met lost an earlier 3p rise after its AGM and the price finished all square at 138p. Unilever fell 7p to 463p, and ICI dipped 6p to 396p while Glaxo at 256p and Fisons at 302p both shed 2p a piece.

Profit-taking knocked rubbers for six with Guthrie leading the

House of Fraser, the "Harrods" stores group where Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland has a near-30 per cent stake, has been put on the speculators shopping list again. The price jumped 10p in two days to 144p amid hopes that Mr Rowland could soon make his move. But any decision on whether a full bid will come is still unlikely to be made until after the Rhodesian elections.

Banks had a mainly mixed appearance ahead of their reporting season with Barclays up 3p to 451p, and Lloyds up 1p to 316p. National Westminster was unchanged at 373p, but Midland fell 7p to 373p.

Properties were generally firmer with some good gains in places, but insurances were easier where changed.

Equity turnover on February 13, was £154.02m (19,198 bar. gains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Furness Withy, Consolidated Gold Fields, R.T.Z. B.P., Lasmo Imperial Group, and Premier Cons.

Bank

Rat

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

CRA's net earnings jump by 76 pc

By Michael Prest

Only a day after a major buyer was looking for shares in Rio Tinto-Zinc, one of the mining company's biggest subsidiaries, Consarc Riotinto of Australia, has announced that its profits rose 76 per cent last year.

CRA's consolidated net earnings climbed from A\$77m to A\$135m (£64.3m). The increase in revenue came mainly from higher metal prices and from the extra uranium sold in 1979 by Mary Kathleen Uranium, Australia's biggest operating uranium mine.

But higher revenue from most of CRA's operations, which include coal, copper, iron ore, zinc and gold, also allowed the Government to take much more in tax. Income tax was A\$133m compared with A\$52.3m in 1978, while Government royalties rose from A\$29.8m to A\$75m.

Earnings per share were 38 cents, against 27.9 cents, while earnings as a percentage of shareholders' funds, now 11.5, went up from 10.9 to 11.5, before extraordinary items. Total spending, which includes exploration and investments, was A\$40.6m instead of A\$23.9m.

The latest figures incorporate results from the wholly-owned subsidiary, Australian Mining & Smelting. This lead and zinc miner and refiner raised consolidated earnings from A\$18.1m to A\$52.3m. Despite a fall in grades, the Broken Hill lead mine achieved record output.

Zinc, however, tended to suffer from weakening demand in the second half of the year. A rough balance between demand for and consumption of zinc in the first half was followed in the next six months by an accumulation of stocks.

CRA warned that despite the political and economic advantages Australia enjoys as a producer of raw materials, 1980's profits will be determined by metal prices and exchange rates.



Photograph by John Manning

The reaction of the Serck engineering group to strikes and the declining economy were outlined at yesterday's annual meeting in Birmingham by Mr Robin Martin, the chairman, pictured on the right, talking to Mr John Pinckard, the chief executive.

Mr Martin said the aftermath of the national engineering strike and the current increase in interest charges had a retarding effect on the group's results so far this year. Depending upon its duration, the national

strike could eventually affect the group, but the previously forecast improvement for the year remains in prospect.

The outlook for mechanical engineering in the United Kingdom was not encouraging, and the desirable strategic changes in the group referred to in the annual report had been set in train, he said.

Mr Martin had nothing to add to his previous statements on Rockwell International's recent acquisition of 29.7 per cent of the group's equity.

Mr Pinckard, the joint-managing director, Mr Geoffrey Sharples,

was 38 cents, against 27.9 cents, while earnings as a percentage of shareholders' funds, now 11.5, went up from 10.9 to 11.5, before extraordinary items. Total spending, which includes exploration and investments, was A\$40.6m instead of A\$23.9m.

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Guildhall Property raises sights

Reporting pre-tax profits for the half-year to end-December up from £379,000 to £492,000, the board of Guildhall Property expects the year's total to show a small improvement over the forecast figure of £950,000 before tax. Taxable profits for the whole of 1978-79 reached a record £811,000. The board is lifting the interim dividend, gross, from 8.9p to 10.7p, but warns it must not be assumed that the same rate of increase will be reflected in the final.

REED INTERNATIONAL

Reed Paper, Reed International's Canadian subsidiary, reports that holders of debentures of its offshoot, Reed Ltd, have accepted Reed Ltd's offer to accept payment of their debentures by Feb 29 next. Matured par value of debentures will be about \$15m.

ENGLISH ASSOCIATION

Pre-tax profits of English Association of American Banks and Share Holders jumped from £77,000 to £126,000 in half-year to Dec 31. Interim payment unchanged at 6.6p gross.

W. L. PAWSON & SON

Mr T. B. Pawson and Mr M. S. Bains have resigned from the board by mutual agreement.

I.C. GAS-COMPAGIE

Pre-tax revenue of Icapacie and London Investment Trust for 1979 up from £26,000 to £41,000. Gross dividend, 3.14p (3.28p).

ARTEL INDUSTRIES

Turnover for half-year to Sept 30 up from £3.46m to £3.64m and pre-tax profits from £324,500 to £420,200. Interim payment, gross, is being raised from 1.34p to 1.54p; total for year expected to be 3.66p (3.41p).

RIVER PLATE TRUST

Gross revenue of River Plate and General Investment Trust for 1979, £1.35m (£1.05m). Total dividend on deferred shares, 12.85p (10.44p) gross.

GENERAL FUNDS

Net revenue of General Funds Investment Trust for year to Jan 15 rose from £326,000 to £420,000. Total gross payment raised from 7.91p to 8.59p.

ROTHGORMONT SECURITIES

Pre-tax revenue of Rothgmonton Secured Growth Trust for half-year to January 31, £212,800 (£184,000). Interim payment held at 8.67p gross. Board does not expect total dividend for current year to be reduced below 1978-79's total.

KINTA KELLAS RUBBER

Interim payment is being raised from 1.49p to 1.64p gross to reduce disparity between payments.

ROBERT M. DOUGLAS

Interim dividend lifted from 1.44p to 1.57p gross and board expects the year's payment will be in the order of 6.42p (against 5.16p).

Briefly

William Whittingham trebles its dividend

Property developer-to-film processor William Whittingham (Holdings) has signalled the end of its mid-1970s losses and recovery period with a trebling of the dividend.

For the year to October 31, last, shareholders are to get a payout of 8.5p gross, against a previous 2.9p, and this was enough to add 7p to the shares at 110p yesterday. At that level the gross yield amounts to 7.8 per cent and the shares trade at almost four times fully-taxed earnings.

Helped by a substantial rise in the contribution from the photographic side, Whittingham's pre-tax profits in the period rose from £1.2m to £2.2m, or turnover £53m on turnover £20.8m.

The development and property division increased its contribution from a previous £1m to £1.7m, on the back of an improved residential side. Five hundred houses were completed and the joint-managing director, Mr Geoffrey Sharples,

said that margins held up well.

In the current period, completions ought to be maintained but increased costs may have to be absorbed by the group.

On the photographic side, Colourtron increased its profits from £464,000 to £1m as a result of good volume growth. Around 90 per cent of turnover comes from mail-order business. This division is being expanded with the opening of a new laboratory at Easter which, over the next two years, ought to double capacity.

Borrowings are currently about £60m as a result of an increase in the land bank. Although investment income is still only a small percentage of total profit, this side is being developed by the group. Since the year-end Whittingham paid £357,000 for the lease of an industrial development in Birmingham, and Mr Sharples admits that as the group's building projects are completed some will be retained to provide future investment income.

Wall Street

New York, Feb 14.—The stock market suffered its sharpest setback since the turn of the year in heavy trading as investors took profits on strong gains so far in 1980.

Both the New York and American stock exchange indices have posted record highs in recent sessions and yesterday the Dow Jones industrial average hit its best level since September 1978.

However, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 10 points today and declines led advances five to two as turnover slowed to just 50,540,000 shares from 65,250,000 yesterday.

Silver futures rally

New York, Feb 14.—SILVER futures prices rose 1.10 to 1.15 an ounce from 1.00 around mid-session on concern over the future of the Comex's trading restrictions.

The nearby March delivery price, which had been hovering around 1.00 after dropping 31.00 to 30.00 in December, rose 1.00 to 1.10.

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Profits warning from Freemans

A profits warning from the chairman of mail-order group Freemans (London, SWS) wiped 20p off the share price to 132p yesterday.

Mr Anthony Rampton tells shareholders that trading over the past few months has been depressed and that profits are likely to dip by over 5 per cent. For the 12 months to January 26, 1980, the pre-tax figure is unlikely to reach £15.5m, against £16.7m for the previous year.

Much of the problem stems from a general lack of demand for the available fashions, coupled to a tightening of money due to the engineering strike and the VAT increase in the summer.

Borrowings have increased as a result of having to hold stocks and interest charges are therefore higher. However, it is unlikely that the dividend, offered over nine times, will be cut.

Reliance Knitwear Group has also sent a warning to shareholders. Only two days after the interim results, the chairman reports that trading is becoming so difficult that the final dividend may have to be cut. Last year's total payout amounted to 5.27p gross and the interim dividend of 2.2p has been maintained. The shares slipped a penny to 29p on the news.

This help was thought to have been a little overdone, enabling rates to soften slightly to 16.16 per cent at the close. The rest of the day had again seen rates stuck at 17 per cent.

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LET THE GIN BE
HIGH & DRY!

Really Dry Gin



Stock Exchange Prices Equities retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 11. Dealings End, Feb 22. Contango Day, Feb 25. Settlement Day, March 3

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

John Foord
plant and machinery valuers

1979/80 High Low Stock		Int. Gross Price Chg Yield Yield		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Price Chg. per cent to P/E		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Price Chg. per cent to P/E		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Price Chg. per cent to P/E		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Price Chg. per cent to P/E			
NETHERLANDS																					
225 234	Treasury	94.2	108.0	86.4	..	9,669	16,619	123 144	Dunlop Hides	67	8.0	12.0	14.7	124 145	81	Marischal	24	26	26	26	105 126
225 234	Fluor	100.0	102.0	88.0	125 146	Double Int.	67	1.2	1.2	1.2	126 147	82	Marley Ltd	24	24	24	24	106 127
225 234	Fluor	102.0	104.0	88.0	..	5,420	10,000	127 148	Durkopp Int.	45	1.1	1.2	1.2	128 149	83	Marling Ind.	24	24	24	24	107 128
225 234	Fluor	104.0	106.0	88.0	..	11,703	15,523	129 150	Dykes Int.	45	1.2	1.2	1.2	130 151	84	Marshall Ind.	24	24	24	24	108 129
225 234	Fluor	106.0	108.0	88.0	..	46 552	AC Cars	102	1.2	1.2	1.2	131 152	85	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	109 130		
225 234	Fluor	108.0	110.0	88.0	..	11,824	14,626	132 153	AGB Research	173	1.2	1.2	1.2	133 154	86	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	110 131
225 234	Fluor	110.0	112.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	134 155	APF Prod	102	1.2	1.2	1.2	135 156	87	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	111 132
225 234	Fluor	112.0	114.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	136 157	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	137 158	88	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	112 133
225 234	Fluor	114.0	116.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	138 159	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	139 160	89	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	113 134
225 234	Fluor	116.0	118.0	88.0	..	8,966	13,105	140 161	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	141 162	90	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	114 135
225 234	Fluor	118.0	120.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	142 163	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	143 164	91	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	115 136
225 234	Fluor	120.0	122.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	144 165	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	145 166	92	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	116 137
225 234	Fluor	122.0	124.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	146 167	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	147 168	93	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	117 138
225 234	Fluor	124.0	126.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	148 169	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	149 170	94	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	118 139
225 234	Fluor	126.0	128.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	150 171	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	151 172	95	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	119 140
225 234	Fluor	128.0	130.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	152 173	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	153 174	96	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	120 141
225 234	Fluor	130.0	132.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	154 175	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	155 176	97	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	121 142
225 234	Fluor	132.0	134.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	156 177	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	157 178	98	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	122 143
225 234	Fluor	134.0	136.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	158 179	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	159 180	99	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	123 144
225 234	Fluor	136.0	138.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	160 181	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	161 182	100	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	124 145
225 234	Fluor	138.0	140.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	162 183	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	163 184	101	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	125 146
225 234	Fluor	140.0	142.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	164 185	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	165 186	102	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	126 147
225 234	Fluor	142.0	144.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	166 187	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	167 188	103	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	127 148
225 234	Fluor	144.0	146.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	168 189	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	169 190	104	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	128 149
225 234	Fluor	146.0	148.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	170 191	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	171 192	105	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	129 150
225 234	Fluor	148.0	150.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	172 193	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	173 194	106	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	130 151
225 234	Fluor	150.0	152.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	174 195	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	175 196	107	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	131 152
225 234	Fluor	152.0	154.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	176 197	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	177 198	108	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	132 153
225 234	Fluor	154.0	156.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	178 199	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	179 199	109	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	133 154
225 234	Fluor	156.0	158.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	180 200	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	181 201	110	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	134 155
225 234	Fluor	158.0	160.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	182 202	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	183 203	111	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	135 156
225 234	Fluor	160.0	162.0	88.0	..	10,511	13,314	184 204	Arcon Bros	128	1.2	1.2	1.2	185 205	112	McDonalds	24	24	24	24	136 157

£10,000 plus Appointments

ARCHITECT



The post of Architect to the C.E.G.B. having unexpectedly fallen vacant, a first class successor is sought. The job calls for personal involvement in a wide range of the Board's activities, from the strategy of site selection to the design of individual buildings and landscape. Age limits between 35 and 50 are mandatory.

The post is as much concerned with the fundamentals of architecture (i.e. aesthetics, colour, form, scale, use of space, etc.) as with the technology of building. In consequence it requires the holder not only to have aesthetic sense, but also sufficient strength of character to be able to put forward his/her views convincingly and defend them successfully. The successful candidate must also be a sound professional and commercial judgement in commissioning and assessing proposals prepared for the Board by eminent external firms. He or she must be able to meet and co-operate with the most distinguished members of the architectural profession and be capable of establishing good relationships based on mutual respect and trust with colleagues in the other disciplines concerned with power station siting, design and construction.

In addition to these personal responsibilities, the Architect (C.E.G.B.) is required to lead a group of architects and landscape architects who undertake a range of executive schemes for the Generation Development and Construction Division.

It will be an advantage if the candidate's previous experience has been closely connected with heavy industrial power station architecture, to which he or she should preferably have made a significant contribution. Professional landscape qualifications and experience are also desirable. Those without these attributes should not, however, be deterred from applying, particularly if they are keen on the job.

The post is based at the Headquarters of the Generation Development and Construction Division, Barnwood, Gloucester.

Salary for the appointment will be within the range £15,360 to £15,800 per annum.

If you believe you meet these exacting standards, please apply to the Manager of Personnel and Administration, Central Electricity Generating Board, Generation Development and Construction Division, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 7FS (Gloucester (0422 52280) enclosing your curriculum vitae, within two weeks of this advertisement. Envelopes and correspondence should be marked 'Confidential' and quote Vacancy Reference Number: 10/80/DT. Shortlisted candidates will be expected to submit a portfolio to illustrate their work and breadth of experience.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD
GENERATION DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

Appointments Vacant

Do you need time to decide how best to use your degree? The Army offers you 3 years.

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If you have graduated, or are about to, and are still undecided about a career, send for our booklet: 'Army Officer. What the job is like and how to apply for it.'

The man to write to is Major John Lloyd, Dept 18, Army Officer Entry, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W1X 6AA.

Tell him your age, your qualifications give him a few details about yourself and raise any questions you have about life as an Army Officer.

For further information, please write to: The Personnel Manager, Transocean Group, 7 Roschier Mews, London W11 2BB, 01-507 8078.

Army Officer

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Interested parties should reply in detail to Box 604 F, The Times, and should include ALL experience, personal interests and other information that will assist us in making a decision. Company will respond promptly by mail upon receipt of resume.

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For full time positions with US Government offices in the Middle East. We are looking for a knowledge of one or more of the following: Arabic, Persian, Kurdish, Kirmanji, Turkish, and Hebrew. We would be able to translate into fluent idiomatic English. Good command of world affairs required. Some communications with education and experience. Send resume and two references. Address: Personnel Officer, American Embassy, P.O. Box 1000, London, W1A 1AR. Tel for review and arrangement of interviews.

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Applications form and further details are available from the Principal, Bolton Institute of Technology, Deane Road, Bolton, Lancashire, BL9 4JL. Completed applications forms should be returned by 1st March, 1980.

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of the responsible editor, a copy of which is available on request.

RECEIVED

15/2/80

Motoring

Emergency aid centre on the Continent

Boulogne in February is almost deserted and like all seaside towns of our season a little forlorn, but come July and August its streets will be choked with cars, many of them British and just leaving, or about to catch the ferries and the hovercraft.

By then a small and unprepossessing office in the car ferry terminal will be manned round the clock, awaiting calls for help from British motorists who have broken down, had an accident, fallen ill, run out of money or otherwise found themselves in distress.

At the height of the holiday season, the English-speaking staff will handle 100 calls a day and armed with telephone numbers, lists of garages, maps and radios will do their best to come up with the right sort of help or advice.

The office is the Automobile Association's continental emergency centre, the clearing house for claims on the 5-Star touring policy, or simply a shoulder for Britons in trouble to cry on. No reasonable request is turned away.

The man in charge is Mr Maurice Gregson, an Englishman, although almost an American only, for he has spent most of his life in France, has a French wife, children with dual nationality and French grandchildren. His father came to France after the First World War, when prospects for work in Britain were not encouraging, and stayed to start a chauffeur business.

The Gregson connection with the AA is long standing and unusual in that Mr Gregson has his own company which acts as the AA's agent. He likes to think of himself as a small workshop, as opposed to a factory, able to give personal service.

When he took over the job, his father gave him this advice: "Remember that the man at the end of the telephone is only the father. There is a mother, who is furious at him for the spoiled holiday, and probably two screaming kids as well." It is something he never forgets.

As an example of the personal touch, Mr Gregson makes a point of keeping in contact with people in hospital, ringing a member of the family every couple of days or so to find out how the patient is progressing. "There must be a flow of sympathy with the person in trouble," he says.

Although he calls on official channels of help, from the British Embassy in Paris downwards, Mr Gregson also relies on personal contacts he has built up over the years. It is a kind of French equivalent of the old boy net. It seems to work and goodness knows what the AA will do when Mr Gregson can no longer run it.

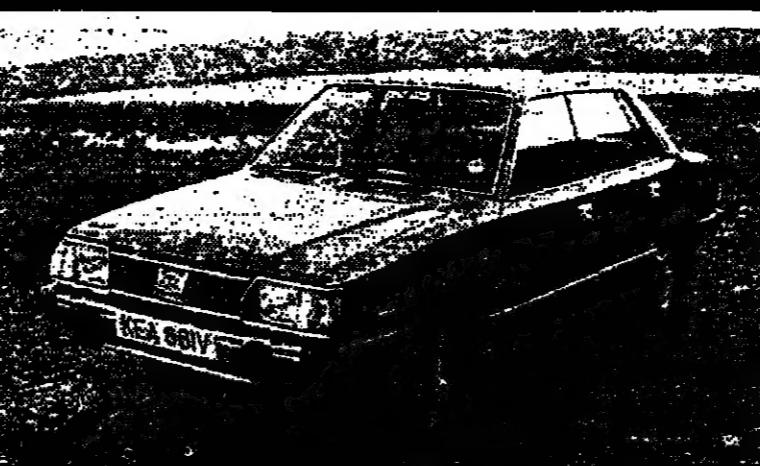
In the context of motoring abroad, one tends to think of the AA and Royal Automobile Club, but coming up fast is a third organisation called Europ Assistance. A French company based in Paris, it opened a British office in 1973 which, after a quiet start, increased turnover sixfold between 1976 and 1979.

Like the AA and RAC, Europ Assistance provides continental insurance for British motorists and claims to have overtaken the RAC in the number of policies issued. A survey taken last year at Dover suggested that the AA had 36 per cent of the market, Europ Assistance 17 per cent and the RAC 13, with 26 per cent of motorists having no special cover (but the AA says it has three times the business of any other company).

Europ Assistance, with its French percentage, is able to call upon 2,000 agents in France alone and with the aid of a computer at its headquarters in Croydon can trace sources of help throughout Europe, from Spain to the Urals. It takes particular pride in its medical cover, once even flying out contraceptives. "You made our holiday," was the grateful comment.

Road test: Subaru 1600 4WD

Here is a singular car on the British market, a saloon with four-wheel drive. On the road it can be used normally, with the engine driving just the front wheels, while off the road, or in snow and ice, power can be extended to the back wheels as well. Subaru see the car as meeting the needs of people like



On its own—the Subaru four-wheel drive saloon.

farmers, doctors and vets, whose work takes them off the beaten track as well as caravanners, fishermen and owners of small boats.

The car is fitted with radial tyres designed to cope with mud and snow, bumper overriders and a guard for the front air dam and rear mud flaps. Ground clearance is nearly an inch and a half higher than on the two-wheel-drive saloon. Perhaps more important than any of these, the car has lower gearing to increase pulling power on difficult surfaces.

Four-wheel drive is engaged simply by working a small lever by the gearstick; and that can be done while the car is moving up to 50 mph in a straight line. Helped by synchromesh, the change is imperceptible. Although unlike most other cross-country vehicles, the

four-wheel drive has not helped: even so, a 1600cc engine in a car 10in shorter than a Ford Cortina should have better acceleration through the gears (0 to 60 mph in 17 seconds is more like the performance of a one litre) and more flexibility.

Once it wound up the car cruises easily enough, although the engine could be quieter. And that mediocre performance is not compensated by low fuel consumption. My return of 23 to 28 mpg compare unfavourably with most other cars in the class. Two points in mitigation are that performance and economy are little affected by the switch to four-wheel drive and that the car will run on two-star fuel.

The advanced specification brings further disappointments in the areas of ride and handling. Rack-and-pinion steering systems are generally very precise, but this one has the typically Japanese feel which can be a little disconcerting when trying to keep the car steady in strong cross-winds. Cornering, in the circumstances, is hardly crisp, with a certain amount of body roll and a tendency to be jogged off line by uneven surfaces. There is, however, an agreeably smooth gear-change. Ride quality, despite the all-independent suspension, is no more than average and it needs only the slightest bump to set up road noise.

The main criticism inside the car is a very low driving seat which, together with insufficient back adjustment, gave me, at any rate, an uncomfortable position. Nor do the seats give enough side support. As on some other Japanese cars, the front door opening is not large enough for a tall person, who will

also be pushed for head and leg-room in the back.

The Subaru four-wheel drive car is a compromise: good off the road, but less versatile than, say, a Land-Rover; adequate, but uninspired, on the road. But as the only vehicle of its kind available, it has its appeal. The price is £4,983, or just under £1,000 more than the same car without four-wheel drive.

Muddle over endorsement

Ignoring a policeman's traffic signal is not only an offence, it is one carrying driving licence endorsement. Ignoring the directions of a traffic warden is also an offence but it is not endorsable, according to a ruling last week by the Divisional Court.

The ruling clarifies what has previously been a muddled area, with some courts ordering endorsement and others not. Just why a policeman's instruction should enjoy a different status from that of a parking warden seems hard to understand, but if that is the law motorists whose licences have been wrongly endorsed can feel aggrieved.

The matter is being taken up by the Automobile Association, which supported the appeal of a member that resulted in the Divisional Court decision. One way of expounding erroneous endorsements would be a Home Office directive to magistrates to ignore them when "tutting up" for disqualification, although it is open to individual motorists to make their representations.

Peter Waymark

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New 528 I auto, Ascot grey, from £2,700 p.w.; Reseda green from £6,810 p.w.; New 318 I auto, Stratford blue, from £24,150 p.w.

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